Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-104 *31 May 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-Al-Majid, 'Arafat Discuss Jerusalem Issue

NC2505174795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—The Arab League and the Palestinian National Authority have agreed to maintain high-level contacts among the Arab parties concerned in order to follow up on the situation in Jerusalem and seek the reversal of the decision to seize Palestinian land in holy Jerusalem.

During their meeting last night in Cairo, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat agreed on the steps that need to be taken in the future to keep the momentum necessary to preserve the distinguished Arab stance that has materialized since the 6 May emergency foreign ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council on Israel's decision to seize Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

Tal'at Hamid, the Arab League press spokesman, stated today that 'Abd-al-Majid and 'Arafat had reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, the obstacles obstructing the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the latest developments on Jerusalem.

Iraqi Official Says West Not To Implement Projects

NC3005164395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 30 May (MENA)—Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Ghafur Yunus, chairman of the Iraqi Union of Chambers of Commerce, stressed that his country will not seek the help of the Western countries to implement any projects but will limit the implementation to the Arab countries after the international sanctions on Iraq have been lifted.

In a statement he made today on the sidelines of the Sixth Conference of Arab Businessmen and Investors in Alexandria, Yunus called on the Security Council to lift the siege that has been imposed on Iraq for five years, noting that his country is suffering from acute shortages of medicine and food as a result of this siege.

The Iraqi official, who is attending the conference as an observer, said that new projects and the investments that Iraq could get from the Arab countries after the lifting of the international sanctions are now being studied.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 16 May

NC2305153095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Brotherhood Official Advocates 'Truce,' Not Peace
2. Columnist Criticizes Mubarak's Attitude to Opposition
3. Writer Fears Elimination of 'Democratic Margin'
4. Editor Defends 'Adil Husayn's U.S. Visit
5. Labor Party Leader on Elections, Transfer of Power
6. Call To Break Off Ties With U.S. Seen Difficult
7. Vanguards of Conquest Trial Raises Questions of Torture, Jihad

BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL ADVOCATES 'TRUCE,' NOT PEACE

Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide, discusses the current controversy over Jerusalem in a 2,000-word article on page 5 entitled: "Al-Aqsa, Jerusalem, and Palestine: Arrogance and Indifference Meet With a Feeble, Irresolute Response."

He begins by declaring: "I might just wish that the U.S. Embassy will be transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem so that all secrets will be exposed; all deceptions and self-delusions about the U.S. and Western attitude to Islam, the Muslims, and the Palestinian cause will vanish; and the Muslim rulers and public will openly acknowledge this fact and abandon their methods of capitulation and feebleness."

He recalls that he has often warned of "this enemy's vicious designs," opposed peace agreements with Israel because they signify recognition of the "enemy and the entity he usurped by terrorism, violence, and murder."

Declaring that this "usurpation" makes resistance the imperative duty of all Palestinians and all Muslims, Mashhur says that the peace agreements that have been concluded were based on concessions and blames the Palestinian Authority for clashing with and arresting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members.

He remarks: "Thus we see the Palestinian Authority continuing its slide toward the abyss and losing its credibility with the Palestinians, all the time deluding itself that it is serving the Palestinian cause. Even some of those who were initially the PLO's partners have begun to abandon it, oppose it, and warn it of the dangers inherent in pursuing this policy with this deceitful, devious enemy."

He describes Israel's decision to expropriate 50 hectares of land in Jerusalem and the U.S. Senate majority

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leader's call to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as instances of "arrogance."

Noting that some official voices in Egypt have begun to attack "the arrogance of the enemy and the United States" and to oppose the expropriation of land in Jerusalem, he says: "all this bodes well if this spirit persists and helps Arab and Muslim rulers to agree on a sound position on this issue."

Mashhur adds: "The Muslims are not hostile to Jews as such. Some Jews lived in peace and security in our lands for centuries. Now that they have fought the Palestinians, however, driven them from their land, and usurped this God-blessed land, they must be fought and evacuated from it until liberation is achieved. Before this happens, there will be no treaties or peace. If it is absolutely necessary, let there be only a truce that does not recognize this occupation and usurpation."

After reviewing "all the instances of weakness and humiliation," including the 1948 and 1967 wars, the Camp David "catastrophe," and the Gaza-Jericho "calamity," Mashhur ends his article with the following words:

"This Zionist entity, which was implanted into the Islamic nation's heart like a cancer to weaken and fragment it, will be, God willing, the incentive for the Islamic nation's unity against this tyrannical enemy. The cause will never die, God willing. Palestine will be a cemetery for the usurpers."

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES MUBARAK'S ATTITUDE TO OPPOSITION

Muslim Brotherhood columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, writing in his usual "Country Folk" column, deplores the situation in which the ruler relies on his aides and supporters to learn the opposition's views instead of listening to the opposition itself. He describes this situation as "the very soul of totalitarianism that leads to grievous errors."

The 500-word article, entitled "The French President Is Not an Inspired Leader," draws a comparison between the situation in Egypt where there is always only one presidential candidate who wins an uncontested election and Jacques Chirac's election with 52 percent of the vote in a "living, youthful" nation where the election of a ruler by 99 percent is an unknown phenomenon.

'Abd-al-Quddus writes: "I got a tremendous shock when I read President Mubarak's remarks to a British newspaper that the loyalists of religious trends are cunning and that one must seek to learn the logic of their thinking."

He expresses astonishment at Mubarak's declaration that the Islamic Group and the Muslim Brotherhood are one and the same thing. He says the president equated "a group accused of violence with another that has frequently proclaimed its rejection of violence."

He adds that the president's views on this matter are a "natural result of his reliance on the security agencies to learn the ways the Islamic streams think."

Using again the comparison with Chirac, the writer remarks: "It is certain that the new president is not thinking of being president for life and does not regard himself as an inspired leader whose decisions settle every discussion. Woe betide Egypt and the lands of the Arabs and Muslims for their poor luck in rulers."

WRITER FEARS ELIMINATION OF "DEMOCRATIC MARGIN"

A 2,500-word article on page 2 by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn with the headline "They Are Burning the Margin of Democracy" discusses the "ruling party's campaign for the People's Assembly election" and notes that, in order to assert its "alleged majority," the ruling party began this campaign by arresting Muslim Brotherhood and professional association members, arresting Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, using trumped-up charges against opposition journalists, and placing impediments before the holding of opposition rallies.

The writer says that the government has grown impatient with the "margin of democracy" that it used to allow and feels that it can no longer tolerate it in an election year. Referring to recent disputes between the government and the professional associations, he accuses the authorities of "smothering the right to free democratic practice by tens of thousands of engineers and millions of other professionals and workers."

He tells the authorities: "You will drive unionists who currently have moderate leanings to express themselves in a more revolutionary manner to confront an injustice that has exceeded all bounds."

He urges the public to resist "despotism" and foresees the day when the people will freely choose the party that will rule them.

EDITOR DEFENDS 'ADIL HUSAYN'S U.S. VISIT

Another article by Majdi Husayn on page 2 responds to a 13 May article by AKHBAR AL-YAWM's Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah which commented on an invitation addressed to an opposition leader to visit the United States and meet with U.S. congressmen to discuss issues pertaining to human rights in Egypt. Sa'dah's article, hinted that the opposition leader, whom it did not identify, was accepting an indirect invitation from the

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CIA and that U.S. human rights organizations have CIA links. Sa'dah also expressed fears in his article that the opposition leader might be asked to slander Egypt during his U.S. visit.

In his AL-SHA'B 2,000-word article, entitled "A Return to Insolence: Ibrahim Sa'dah Does Not Like To Contact Intelligence Services!!", Majdi Husayn accuses Sa'dah of "insulting this homeland's symbols and honorable men."

He identifies the opposition leader invited to visit the United States as Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn and wonders if U.S. visits are a monopoly of the ruling party. He says there is nothing wrong when patriotic politicians "particularly of 'Adil Husayn's caliber" talk with U.S. Administration representatives or nongovernmental institutions, as long as these institutions have no links with "the Zionist Entity."

He remarks: "I do not know why a public meeting with a group of U.S. Congressmen is to be regarded as some form of direct or indirect cooperation with the CIA!!."

Addressing Sa'dah, he urges him: "Please have some shame, mister."

He disputes Sa'dah's contention that human rights organizations get their information about what torture occurs in jails, Egyptian jails for instance, from the CIA. He tells him that these organizations do not enter jails clandestinely but obtain the testimonies of persons who were subjected to torture or saw others being tortured and who came out of jail alive to tell the story. He says they also obtain the information from lawyers, reliable public figures, court rulings, and medical examiners' reports.

The writer apologizes to readers for pursuing the "nonsense" that Sa'dah writes but says that it was necessary to put the issue in a proper light. He says that the issue has nothing to do with the CIA, human rights, or the "other ridiculous allegations" made in Sa'dah's article but with the fact that "some governing circles" in Egypt resent 'Adil Husayn's visit to the United States and worry about "any dialogue between Islamic movement symbols in Egypt and the Arab world and decisionmaking circles in the United States."

He adds: "If these people had more maturity, they would realize that such a dialogue is good for the country and the Arab-Islamic cause. They would also understand that our differences with official U.S. policy are greater than their differences. They would learn that Egypt does not consist of the Egyptian Government alone but of all Egyptian forces and streams. "

Addressing Sa'dah and government circles, the writer says: "By the way, 'Adil Husayn's visit to the United States is not the first and will not be the last by a leader of the Labor Party or other opposition parties. It is a normal occurrence, but, because you have no self-confidence, you lose your cool."

LABOR PARTY LEADER ON ELECTIONS, TRANSFER OF POWER

On page 6 the paper publishes a 1,800-word interview with Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, originally published by AL-HAYAH, the newspaper states, without specifying the original date of publication or the interviewer. Shukri says the Labor Party will contest this year's People's Assembly elections in alliance with candidates from the Muslim Brotherhood and the Liberal Party. But he explains that since the political parties will not field candidate lists this time, but will nominate individual candidates, there will be no problem with the Muslim Brotherhood remaining an illegal organization. He says the slogan raised during the election campaign will not be a Labor-Liberal-Muslim Brotherhood alliance but "Islam is the solution," a slogan used by the alliance in the past.

He urges President Mubarak to abandon his leadership of the ruling National Democratic Party and to permit the alternation of power among the various political parties. He comments on the president's role: "We state that President Mubarak has an important role to play in Egypt's future, in its stability, and in maintaining a sound democratic system. We urge him to allow alternation of power among the political parties and to give the people opportunities to choose."

CALL TO BREAK OFF TIES WITH U.S. SEEN DIFFICULT

A 250-word report on pages 1 and 6 by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah says that "Arab diplomats in Cairo have called for breaking off diplomatic ties with the United States and any other country that moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem." The diplomats are cited as telling AL-SHA'B that they favor "a unanimous Arab breaking-off of ties with Washington as an ultimate step putting pressure on it."

But the report notes that "another Arab diplomatic source has ruled out the prospect of the Arab countries carrying out such a step, because it is difficult to obtain Arab consensus."

The rest of the report is about earlier Arab contacts, now suspended, to hold a minisummit to discuss Israel's actions in Jerusalem.

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VANGUARDS OF CONQUEST TRIAL RAISES QUESTIONS OF TORTURE, JIHAD

An unattributed 250-word report on pages 1 and 6 says the Higher Military Court has continued the trial of 42 defendants in the Vanguards of Conquest case. It says the defense lawyers have urged that the findings of an "investigation into the torture of defendants" be made public.

Addressing the charge that the defendants planned to carry out jihad, the prosecutor in the case is reported to have used the argument that "jihad was the duty of every adult Muslim in the era of the prophet but nowadays this is no longer the case as long as enough Muslims undertake to defend Islam and as long as no Muslim territory is usurped."

The report says the defense responded with the argument that "since numerous Muslim territories are usurped, the prosecution is wrong to say that jihad is no longer a binding duty on every adult Muslim."

Al-Azhar Shaykh on Plight of Muslims, Veto

NC3005182095 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 May 95 p 5

[Statement issued by Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, grand imam of al-Azhar; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Come let us ponder what is going on in our world to know who to befriend and who to respect, admire, esteem, and shake hands with as a show of insistence on his friendship and a salute to his fairness, loyalty, and deliberation in making a judgment. Let us do so out of respect for his history and his leadership of humanity toward the realms of freedom which he pioneered, thus enabling philosophies and sciences to prosper on earth and to radiate ideas and awaken feelings. The minds of humans were awakened and peoples were propelled by their various abilities in sciences and industries to come up with inventions until the monotonous and slow patterns of human life have been changed by the steps taken by man, who has sailed the sea, dived into its depths to compete with whales, soared in the air faster than the predatory birds, landed with his feet on the moon, and is seeking and speeding to catch up with the stars and suns, wanting to know their mechanisms, who provides them with spare parts, and who protects them from dust.

This man, who was taught by God what he did not know, "taught man that which he knew not" [Koranic verse], was led by the advance he attained in material civilization and the ability to fly, to do away with distances and to extend the communications system so that the world has become one village where people talk, communicate with each other, and even exchange insults as if these millions and billions of human beings are facing the battle of life not with cooperation and good deeds but with iniquities, aggression, and by raising slogans of injustice as if they are absolute justice.

Here are the oppressed peoples being tyrannized, crushed, and their wealth looted and given to those who have set up the government for this world and all its expansive continents, a government with an unjust law and a court of treachery, betrayal, and deception. Boasting of harming and injuring others has become a law that must be implemented.

Come o you who have raised the slogan of justice and benevolence, who have learned from God's religion—Islam—how men can live together, and who have made this slogan a religion, creed, science, and action and see how your situation has changed and how you have become a prey to vultures. See how you have become the friends of the strong ones who have excelled through science and industry and abandoned man's ethics and what sets him apart from the other beings that share life with him.

Come let us sort out the stands of these (mortal) friends and how they stood up in the heart of Europe calling for human rights and creating a clamor that has not yet settled while human beings in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya are being burned, their houses are being destroyed, and the people are being expelled, dragged on the ground, and their honor violated. Having paid no attention to the rights of these people they are now talking about human rights. Come let us see the situation in Palestine and Jerusalem. The oppressed—the Arabs—are fulfilling the peace commitments, promises, and pledges while the others do not know any pledge or have a conscience. Their actions are a betrayal of the pledge and the promise. They kill, they betray, they destroy and then are backed by the (veto) of their friend, who is a close friend of the Arabs who have confided their secrets and wealth to him. This friend has not reciprocated in kind but has let his friendship dictate to him what to do, thus manifesting spite, treachery, injustice, and ingratitude for the reverence and awe he is given, the boundless generosity bestowed on him, and the great welcome accorded him though he comes only to threaten of dire consequences.

Come O you helpless people, let us tell the one with the veto power: We looked forward to your justice. We expected you to stand against him whose inner thoughts you know so well. You know that he is cunning and deceitful and will not be satisfied until you follow his

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faith, dissolve your character in his, and be with your friends food for him to devour.

The world's nations waited for the one with the power to look toward them and make his judgment, but when he spoke, he uttered falsehood. He did this after doing injustice for a long time and beginning to like injustice, aggression, and the usurpation of the rights of the oppressed nations that fly in orbits around him and are content just to make him happy even if they do not get their legitimate rights in life.

And what is the matter with our Asian sister and friend? It is demolishing mosques in Jammu and Kashmir, killing worshipers in their sanctuaries, and burning their homes over their heads. What is the matter with this country to which we proclaim amity and good neighborliness, and when we criticize it, we do so gently like one neighbor to another who does not retaliate to an injury with an injury? Why are its security services closing their eyes to what the citizens are doing? They are disregarding the citizenship rights of their Muslim compatriots and paying no heed to the fact that they are all the sons of God and citizens of the same country. They are demolishing mosques over the heads of the worshipers and burning homes over the heads of their occupiers. They did not even spare the resting places of the dead and used fire against them. This is the same fire that God has promised to the unjust, a searing fire that will devour them; and whenever their skins are roasted through, we shall change them for fresh skins to increase their punishment in retribution for their falsehood and injustice to others in this world which, because of man's injustice to man, has turned into a jungle without a ruler. [preceding sentence incorporates fragments of Koranic verses]

Again we address this blame from al-Azhar to our sworn friend whose friendship we seek and whom we pamper, but he insists on reciprocating our love with hate and acts in a way revealing his bad intentions. Loyalty, however, requires us to maintain his friendship and call him always our sworn friend.

Second, we address blame to our Asian friend whose rights of neighborliness we preserve as Islam tells us to do even if our neighbor acts unjustly.

We tell both friends: Beware of God's wrath even though he is forbearing. There is no strength without God. For us God sufficeth and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

We tell the Arab and Muslim leaders, the peoples of the Islamic nations—in their various countries and speaking their different languages—and their supporters: Rely on yourselves.

We must think of our affairs, consider our situation, and change matters with our hands.

Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves with their own souls. [Koranic verse]

The internal wars in Afghanistan and Algeria as well as the rifts that surface here and there must be stopped. Awaken the dignity that has subsided in your souls, giving rise to temptation and putting down the banner. The billions of people all over the world; the honorable men and women who are facing these storms while holding their ground, we hope that they will be relieved of their individualism and selfishness and come together to declare that God stands beside the group, not individuals. Let them learn from the people who stand shoulder to shoulder in straight rows during the prayers the principle and the goal of: Beware your friend before your enemy.

Call for the prayers, observe the prayers, and live modestly and you will see that God will be with you and will not abandon you.

As for their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the kings, amirs, and presidents, the nation has been waiting for their meeting to discern the right from the wrong concerning the paramount issue—all of Jerusalem that is not subject to any humiliation—and we wanted to shake their hands for telling the aggressors and those supporting them to stop and leave because the Islamic nation has taken things into its own hands and we the leaders are in the forefront, we tell them: Let no one be deceived by the new Israeli position and its announcement to freeze its decision to seize the Jerusalem land. For experience with Israel and its betrayal of promises indicate that full confidence in it is in doubt. The Islamic nation hopes that their leaders the majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the kings, amirs, and presidents will remain vigilant on this matter and other serious issues carried out by Israel, so that with their prudence they can confront any new attempts by Israel to gobble up Arab and Islamic rights in Palestine.

And here we see the ulema of this nation guiding its steps and straightening out its course in a legitimate defense of the land and honor, foremost being Jerusalem and the surrounding land, which God has honored with His messages and on which the prophets, the last being Muhammad, may peace be upon him, have walked and travelled in his night journey on his way to the highest heavens. As for the friends who have struggled at the Security Council; as for the 14 countries representing the entire world with the exception of the other friend who has risked our friendship with him and who is now ignoring the stands we have taken in his support;

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as for this friend, the "veto" friend who possesses the resources and secrets of this nation, we tell him that God's promised time may come and that time takes turns: One day it could work for you, one day it could work against you. God has verily said: "Such days of varying fortunes we give to men by turns, and soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take." [Koranic verse]

Palestinian Affairs

Cabinet Reviews Official Visits, Peace Process

JN2705203795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Authority's Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat today. [passage omitted]

Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that President 'Arafat presented a detailed report on his visit to fraternal Jordan and his meeting with his brother His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. He said that the president described the meeting as extremely warm and positive. He added that His Majesty King Husayn stressed his concern about coordinating with the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and expressed Jordan's readiness to support the Palestinian National Authority in all fields.

President 'Arafat said that the Palestinian delegation's visit to fraternal Jordan had deepened the entrenched fraternal relations, constituted a turning point in the history of bilateral relations, and created an appropriate atmosphere for laying the foundations of a future relationship based on mutual interests and joint destiny. The president thanked his majesty the king and his government for the warm reception and the great and positive results of the visit.

President 'Arafat said that the obstacles to the implementation of all levels of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreements do not come from the Palestinian side, which is concerned about implementing them, but by the Israeli side which premeditatedly places obstacles to prevent us from getting closer to our Arab depth ['umq] and to keep the economic subservience imposed on our people, something which the National Authority rejects. He said that the National Authority insists on eliminating all these obstacles in accordance with the economic agreements signed with the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said: The president then presented a report on his visit to Egypt and his meeting with his brother President Husni Mubarak, stressing that the meeting was, as usual, warm. President Mubarak praised the results of President 'Arafat's visit to Amman. President 'Arafat said that Egypt is one of our strong supporters, particularly under these difficult circumstances when the Palestinian-Israeli track is witnessing Israeli attempts to obstruct any progress in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. What the president heard from President Mubarak proves that Egypt's stand is firm toward the Jerusalem issue, the redeployment of the Israeli Army, and the holding of the Palestinian elections to begin the final status negotiations.

The presidency secretary general added: President 'Arafat briefed the Council of Ministers on the reasons behind suspending the mini Arab summit, and not the cancellation of its convocation in case the Israeli Government revokes its decision. President 'Arafat said he and President Mubarak agreed on the need to abrogate the Israeli decision on the confiscation of the Palestinian lands in Jerusalem. The discussion also dealt with the progress which was made on the Syrian track. There is information that there is some progress. The announcement on this progress has confirmed our information. The president called for making progress on the Lebanese track in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said: President 'Arafat briefed the Council of Ministers on the recent contacts with his brother Moroccan King Hassan II, and his majesty's invitation to President 'Arafat to visit Morocco where a tripartite meeting will be held in the Moroccan capital. The meeting will include His Majesty King Hassan II, President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added: The Council of Ministers called on the Israeli side to bring with it something new to this tripartite meeting, and to confirm that 15 June and 1 July are sacred dates for the implementation of the DOP. There should be measures to show Israel's good intentions toward the implementation of the second part of the DOP, especially since little time remains, and Israel has thus far not presented serious ideas or taken steps on the ground to prove its commitment.

The presidency secretary general said: President 'Arafat has informed all Arab officials with whom he has met, the foreign consuls, and the representatives to the National Authority that this is a crucial date and a turning point for making progress in the peace process. Otherwise, it will collapse and we will return to square one, something which will threaten the entire process and place the region at the edge of a volcano. President 'Arafat stressed that in all cases, the Palestinian

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institutions will be called upon to meet to assess the entire situation. It is either we go ahead with the peace process, providing that there is tangible progress toward the implementation of the DOP, or announce the failure of the agreement.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said: The Council of Ministers was informed about the meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Israel's readiness to include three new powers, namely, agriculture, municipalities, local government and census to the list of previously agreed upon powers of mail, industry and trade, oil and gas, and labor. This is in addition to the need to transfer the Palestinian radio station to Ramallah — as a beginning of the transfer of telecommunications. Powers thus far transferred to the Palestinian side are: education, culture, health, and social affairs, which includes youth, sports, tourism, taxes, value added tax, and customs.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added: Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat presented a report on the tripartite meeting which was held at the EU headquarters in Brussels between Palestine, the EU, and Israel. The Palestinian side extended an official invitation to the EU states to act as coordinator general of the international observers of the Palestinian elections which will be held after the redeployment of Israeli forces outside the populated areas in the West Bank. The invitation included the following:

The Palestinian elections will be open for international observation at all stages, including registration, nomination, electoral campaigning, voting, vote counting, and objections.

International observation shall take place in accordance with the internationally recognized standards.

Israel should implement what it will be asked to do to facilitate the task of international observation regarding the international observers entry into Israel's ports and airports, and the entry of vehicles, equipment, communication equipment, and other requirements for the operations of the international observers. [passage omitted]

PA To Set Up Municipal Council for East Jerusalem

TA3005055995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Palestinian sources confirm the Palestinian Authority [PA] will probably set up a municipal council for East Jerusalem. Faysal al-Husayni says this is one of the ways in which the Palestinians will fight Israel over the future of the city.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 30 May publishes on page 2 a report by Jon Immanuel and news agencies which quotes Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Dani Shek as saying that "Israel would not recognize the authority of such a council, noting the current Israel-PLO autonomy arrangement denied the Palestinians powers in Jerusalem."]

In another development, a Palestinian land dealer in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Shu'fat has been kidnapped and taken to Jericho. Muhammad Hamdan is apparently suspected of selling land to Jews. His family have asked aides of Yasir 'Arafat to secure Hamdan's release. The head of the Palestinian security service, Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, denies that his agents were involved in the kidnapping.

PLO Official on Oslo Agreement, PNC Meetings

JN2905104495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 29 May 95 p 22

[Interview with 'Abdallah Hurani, resigned member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Nasir 'Arif; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Arif] How do you assess the situation in the Palestinian arena a year after the signing of the Oslo agreement?

[Hurani] First of all, I must say that the Israeli and U.S. interest and even the interest shown by Western countries in general in the Palestine question was not aimed at solving the Palestinian people's problem but was aimed at solving Israel's problem in the Arab world. However, it was necessary to open the Palestinian door so that Israel could enter the Arab world through it. Israel got what it wanted with the signing of the Oslo agreement, which opened wide prospects for normalizing its relations with some Arab countries in a very short time. [passage omitted]

Let me frankly say that after this, what I fear right now is if Israel was able to reach a settlement with Syria, then this will be the coup de grace fired at the Palestinian-Israeli agreements. This is especially since the signing of a Syrian-Israeli agreement will open all the doors in the Arab world that remained closed in Israel's face. Therefore, I want to reiterate the importance of strengthening the Palestinian factor because it is the only means of handling all our current and future issues. [passage omitted]

['Arif] Recently, there have been many calls for holding a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in the territories. What is your comment on this?

[Hurani] I will not get tired of reiterating that after all the cards have been lost, the national charter card is the

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last card remaining in the hands of the [Palestinian] Authority [PA] and the PLO. Therefore, if the PA thinks about and the PLO approves holding a PNC session in the territories to cancel some of the charter's articles, then this will be the last back-breaking straw in Palestinian action.

I believe that achieving this continues to be Israel's objective. When Israel recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative, this was in its favor because without Israel's recognition of the PLO, the signing of the Oslo agreement would have meant nothing to it.

Hence, the PLO and the PA must not relinquish the last card they have before restoring the Palestinian people's national rights represented by the right to repatriation, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish an independent state. [passage omitted]

['Arif] So far, you continue to boycott the PLO Executive Committee's meetings. Until when will this continue?

[Hurani] My boycott of the PLO Executive Committee's meetings is not due to a political disgruntlement, evasion of responsibility, or withdrawal from political life. It is a result of what we saw in the Oslo agreement. We have anticipated the current suffering of the Palestinian side even before the implementation of parts of the agreement.

I support all efforts to restore the PLO's role provided that everyone — supporters and opponents — shows an inclination toward activating the PLO Executive Committee's role and not excluding them. All should first be convinced that we are facing a crisis which requires us to review, study, and evaluate the situation almost two years after the Oslo agreement.

Just to show you that there is no serious intention to achieve this objective, I will note that the PLO Executive Committee meetings currently held with the participation of eight members were considered legal even though everyone knows that the regulation stipulates the presence of two-thirds of the members in order to hold the PLO Executive Committee's meetings.

'Urayqat: No Agreement on Elections Without Jerusalem

JN3105092095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has announced that a European Union delegation will visit the National Authority area on 12 June to prepare a working schedule for the international observers of legislative elections.

Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume in Tel Aviv today on the holding of Palestinian legislative elections. The Palestinian delegation is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and the Israeli delegation is led by Yo'el Singer, Israeli Foreign Ministry legal adviser. In a statement to Voice of Palestine, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the main topic on the agenda of the talks will be the participation of the citizens of Jerusalem in the elections. He said that there will be no agreement on elections without the participation of the citizens of the holy city.

Al-Rujub Denies Wanted Palestinians Handed to Israel

MM3105103795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Rujub Denies Knowledge of Palestinians Handed Over to Tel Aviv"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security organ in Jericho, has denied any knowledge of agency reports claiming wanted Palestinians have been handed over to Israel. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Col al-Rujub said: "I have no knowledge whatsoever of this." He added: "If that turns out to be true then whoever did it might have committed national treason." Palestinian police sources had earlier been quoted as saying that two Palestinians who had stolen the weapon of an Israeli policeman in April and had since been hiding in the Jericho area have been handed over to Israel.

The two Palestinians, who come from East Jerusalem, snatched the weapon of the policeman as he was patrolling al-Aqsa mosque grounds. The Israeli security authorities have been looking for them ever since. They will appear before an Israeli court.

Fatah Seeks To Ban al-Rujub's 'Rival' From Autonomy

TA2905095095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The son of General 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im, recently arrived in the West Bank to organize supporters and weapons in preparation for his father's return from Jordan. Israel has permitted Abu-al-Za'im's admission to the autonomy. He is expected to be appointed head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank.

Our correspondent notes that Abu-al-Za'im's imminent return has generated high tension in Fatah. His chief rival is Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Jericho Preventive Security organization, who fears that since

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he will be subordinate to Abu-al-Za'im, his standing will depreciate.

Fatah leaders have appealed to 'Arafat to bar Abu-al-Za'im from returning to the territories, but the PLO chief insists on allowing it. Last week he met with Abu-al-Za'im in Jordan.

Fatah Bosses 'Fear' for Status Following Police Deployment

TA3105044195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Palestinian Authority [PA] said that the military commander of the Jericho area, Brigadier General Hajj Isma'il Jabr, will be in charge of the deployment of Palestinian police forces into the areas vacated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] following the latter's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Fatah officials in the West Bank fear that the deployment of the Palestinian Police will undermine their standing. The Fatah leadership in the West Bank has become embroiled in a dispute with Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security service, after sharply criticizing his work methods.

Fatah 'Spokesman' Views al-Shak'ah-APF Meeting

JN2605185795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 May 95

[Press statement by spokesman for the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah; place and date not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] held a meeting on 23 May 1995 in the presence of brother struggler Bassam al-Shak'ah, secretary of the Palestinian Grouping [PG].

Talks during the meeting focused on the dangers and challenges facing our people and ways to confront them. This is contrary to news agency reports which cited some parties to the APF as saying that the meeting was designed to approve negotiations.

The APF leaders appreciated the establishment of the PG, so it can be a framework comprising the factions, organizations, and national political key figures inside the occupied homeland who are opposed to the Oslo-Cairo agreement in order to promote our people's militant march which rejects occupation, the treasonous Oslo agreement, and the applications resulting from it.

The conferees stressed the importance of the organic relationship between the PG and the APF in affirmation of the integrated national action in and outside the occupied homeland and in embodiment of the unity of our people, land, cause, objectives, and national destiny.

The conferees also stressed their determination to continue struggle against occupation and its policies which aim to Judaize Palestine as well as to confront and topple the Oslo agreement and its team and all its results and applications in a way that will secure and enhance harmony between the political tasks of the PG and those of the APF.

Some parties to the APF have joined groupings whose political tasks and symbols confuse the activities of these parties and do not express the policies of the APF and its activities.

While stressing the importance of establishing the PG, the Fatah Movement was extremely interested in joining this grouping on the part of all parties to the APF in a way that will enhance the capability of confrontation and foster the accomplishment of national tasks. It also called on all parties to exert efforts in a way that will secure achieving the results for which the APF was established.

Islamic Movement Not To Participate in Israeli Elections

JN2705084295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement within the Green Line, has stated that his movement will neither participate in nor nominate its members for the 1996 Israeli legislative elections.

In an interview with Voice of Palestine, Darwish said that the Islamic Movement has not called for boycotting the elections, and that it will leave it up to its members to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Darwish said that the time has not yet come for the movement to participate in the next Israeli elections. He stressed that the movement seeks to enhance national unity among the Palestinian people and that we do not act to score political or electoral points.

Minister Frayj Calls For Policemen in Bethlehem

JN2905152695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities, has called on the Israeli Government to withdraw the Israeli policemen from Bethlehem and replace them with Palestinian policemen.

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Frayj held the Israeli police responsible for the chaos and insecurity in the city.

'Arafat To Meet Germany's Kohl in Jericho 7 Jun

JN3005095395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will receive German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Jericho on 7 June. Kohl will be accompanied by a delegation which will include German businessmen. The Palestinian-German summit will deal with the latest developments in the peace process and ways to reinforce Palestinian-German relations.

Paper Views Talks on Golan, Rejects Delay on Other Tracks

TA2905095395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 May 95 p 13

[Editorial: "A Race Against Time in the Golan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's reports that Syria and Israel have reached understandings over some security issues might be, according to the views of a number of observers, an indication that some progress could take place on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track even though it is still not easy to determine the extent of that progress, especially since those reports did not clarify the precise nature of the understandings or the issues under discussion.

A noteworthy observation, also pointed out by the observers, is that these understandings were achieved in the wake of the Israeli Government's decision to freeze the expropriation of Arab lands in Jerusalem. This underscores the fact that the peace process is enhanced and makes progress in a climate of respect for Palestinian and Arab rights and that the consequences of any measure or act by the Israeli side against those rights not only are reflected on the Palestinian track, but also extend to the entire peace process and to all tracks.

At this stage, knowing the cause for this unexpected development on the Syrian track or figuring which side made more concessions is not important, because the more important phenomenon is that a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli talks is now possible following the talks' deadlock over the past six months. That deadlock made numerous Israeli officials utter pessimistic assessments and comments on the possibility of reaching an agreement with Syria during the short remaining months of the present Israeli Government's term in power, especially as the election campaign will heat up in just six months' time. After this date the peace process will be almost suspended until a new Israeli Government assumes power following the elections' results.

It goes without saying that activating the talks on a certain negotiating track does not mean that they should be frozen on another track. Any invigoration of the Syrian track is desirable within the framework of reaching a comprehensive and just peace. However, using interest in this track as an excuse to delay talks on the Palestinian track will not achieve the desired objective from the peace process as a whole, rather that will lead — even in the short-term — to deadlock in the entire peace process. This will be neither in the interest of peace, nor in the interest of the parties that are striving to achieve it.

Radio on Tunis Meetings, Saudi Financial Aid

JN3105085895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will head for Tunisia today following an official visit to Saudi Arabia. The president will chair in Tunis the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee to be held tomorrow, Thursday. It has been learned that the two committees will discuss the latest developments in the talks with Israel on the eve of 1 July, the date on which the Israeli Government has pledged to end the talks on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles regarding the relocation of Israeli forces, the holding of legislative elections, and transferring the remaining powers to the National Authority. The committees will also discuss a number of political and administrative issues.

Yesterday, President 'Arafat and the Saudi monarch discussed in Jeddah the latest developments in the peace process. 'Arafat explained to the Saudi leaders the importance of adopting a unified Arab-Islamic stand vis-a-vis the issue of Jerusalem.

A Palestinian source announced that Riyadh has extended $21 million of aid to the National Authority.

PFLP Statement on Israeli Expropriations Freeze

TA2605172395 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 May 95 p 5

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has warned against the possibility that the Israeli authorities might backtrack on the decision to freeze land confiscation in occupied Jerusalem. The PFLP also warned that the Israeli Government, in order to placate the extreme right wing, might adopt certain measures that are no less grave than the decision to expropriate lands in Jerusalem.

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Those warnings came in a press release issued yesterday evening by the PFLP in the wake of the Israeli Government's decision to freeze the expropriation of 53 acres of Jerusalem land.

In its statement, the PFLP stressed the need to continue the cohesiveness of all forces and the mobilization of the Palestinian people and the forces supporting their rights to confront the expropriation policy.

The PFLP called on the Palestinian Authority to stop the talks with Israel and launch an extensive national and democratic dialogue with all national forces and personalities, as well as with all political and social organizations, in a bid to review the past experience and learn its lessons. This is in order to protect national gains, enhance the struggle against the dangerous Israeli policy, and realize the goals of our people who are striving for liberation and independence.

Furthermore, the PFLP expressed its surprise at the Arab League's decision to suspend the mini-Arab summit meeting and called on Arab leaders to reconsider their decision. The statement called on the Arab nations to resist all the speedy and extensive normalization steps with Israel. Those steps encourage Israel to continue settlement activity and keep occupying the Palestinian territories and ignoring the Palestinian people and their just rights.

The statement explained that the Israeli decision to freeze expropriations came against the background of the Israeli domestic situation, which has witnessed a large-scale movement to preserve Jerusalem's identity and condemn Israeli actions.

Rafah Temporary Cargo Terminal Opens

TA2905183495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The temporary cargo terminal in Rafah opened for traffic this evening, and an Egyptian truck loaded with rice crossed it into the Gaza Strip. Security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the differences between Israel and the Palestinians regarding the customs tariffs imposed on goods crossing the terminal have been resolved. It was agreed that 15 loaded trucks will enter the Gaza Strip from Egypt daily, starting tomorrow.

TV Transmission Reportedly To Expand

JN2805114495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 May 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Nabulus — QUDS PRESS — Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, director of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation, has said the corporation will begin to expand television transmission on 15 July to cover all Palestinian areas. He added that the technical equipment, studios, and transmission network necessary for the start of work are all available, and that it is only a matter of time.

Abu-'Ayyash said a clear structure has been set up for the start of work on developmental plans that include the setting up of radio and television studios in the Palestinian self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and Jericho during the next two weeks, and a comprehensive center for the radio and television administration as well as training centers in Ramallah by the end of this year.

Abu-'Ayyash said a legal committee from a number of Palestinian jurists has been formed to draw up the Palestinian television's laws and priorities. He added that a constitution benefiting from local, Arab, Western, and U.S. expertise has been drafted and submitted to the legal quarters in the Palestinian Authority for approval.

Abu-'Ayyash said his corporation will close down any unlicensed private radio station in the West Bank. He added that any licenses granted by the occupation authorities will not be recognized. He said: One should distinguish between freedom and chaos. There is no objection to the presence of other mass media, but these should have certain aims within a general plan, not general chaos.

A number of local private radio stations have started transmission from the West Bank cities.

The Palestinian official referred to a number of applications to set up private commercial television stations, indicating that all were rejected because the authority is now concentrating on the general legal system to establish the national television as a first step. Once this is done, licenses will be granted to stations planning to reflect the cultural image, and not serve as tools of instigation by certain factions.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Spokeswoman Describes Power Transfer Talks

NC3105052795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have concluded their second day of talks on the transfer of power from the Israelis to the Palestinian Authority.

A spokeswoman for the Israeli delegation said that so far the talks have focused on the transfer of powers in the field of labor issues and that agreement has been reached on this matter. She said that authority in the

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spheres of trade and industry will be transferred next week.

The Israeli spokeswoman explained: We have embarked on a new phase in the current negotiations and we are now trying to reach agreement to transfer all powers. An agreement to this effect will be signed when these negotiations end in June.

She described the atmosphere prevailing during the talks as constructive, noting that the negotiations have assumed a technical character and that every speciality was represented by Israeli and Palestinian delegates. This included a committee on communications, which discussed the establishment of a Palestinian television station in Ramallah.

The spokeswoman noted that the final session of this round of talks will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, and that the talks will be resumed on the Wednesday and Thursday of next week to discuss the transfer of powers in the fields of trade and industry.

She said that from next week onward, the talks will focus on transferring powers in the fields of petroleum, gas, postal services, insurance, agriculture, local administration, and statistics.

Israel transferred powers in the spheres of education, health, social affairs, sports, and tourism to the Palestinian Authority in September 1994.

PA Official: Israel To Transfer 8 Powers

JN3105100895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Civilian Affairs Jamil al-Tarifi has said that the Israeli side announced that it is planning to transfer eight powers to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]. In a statement to the Voice of Palestine this morning, al-Tarifi said that there is still an obvious disagreement between the two sides since Israel wants to transfer powers [Salahiyat] and not authorities [sulutat] as demanded by the Palestinian delegation.

Al-Tarifi said that it was agreed that the headquarters of the [Palestinian] Radio and Television will be in Ramallah. He added: We can install a proper transmitter to enhance radio and television transmission. We will have a unified Palestinian television program.

The three-day negotiations on the transfer of authorities will be concluded in Cairo today.

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Algeria

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorists,' Recover Weapons

LD3005182695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced that they shot dead 23 terrorists over the last few days in various places in the north of the country in the course of diverse search operations. Several sets of weapons were recovered on that occasion.

Minister: Rise in Oil Prices Possible

LD2805160995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Industry and Energy Minister Amar Mekhloufi said that if all OPEC member-states honored their production quotas, the price of oil could be increased.

In a statement to the Algerian press agency, APS, Mekhloufi said that the organization is currently in a difficult position because nonmember states are working to destabilize the oil market and fluctuate price structures.

The minister of energy added: We hope to achieve more discipline in the oil market in order to raise prices to the level of $21 a barrel, a stand Algeria will recall during the OPEC meeting in the second half of June.

Amar Mekhloufi also pointed out that Algeria will raise the issue of linking a barrel of oil to the dollar during the organization's forthcoming meeting because the Gulf states are also concerned with this matter. [passage omitted]

Zeroual, Mauritanian President Discuss Issues

LD3005195095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, had a telephone conversation today with Mr. Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Republic of Mauritania. During the conversation, they discussed bilateral relations and a number of regional and African issues of joint interest.

Agricultural Agreement Signed With Uzbekistan

LD3005204595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] All the talks culminated today with the embodiment of Algerian-Uzbek cooperation in the signing at El-Mithak residence of an agreement in the field of agriculture. The agreement was signed for the Algerian side by the minister of agriculture, Nourreddine Bahbouh, and for the Uzbek side by Mr. Rasulmat Husanov [agriculture minister].

This agreement falls within the framework of boosting agricultural cooperation between the two countries and promoting bilateral cooperation in other fields. It specifically provides for cooperation in the areas of cotton and cereal production and agricultural irrigation, in addition to the twinning of the agricultural institutes in the two countries in order to train technicians in this field. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Jerusalem, Peace Process, NPT

AU3005121495 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 29 May 95 pp 156-162

[Interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by Volkhard Windfuhr and Romain Leick; place and date not given: "Knife Into the Hearts of the Peoples"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, after an outcry of indignation in the whole Arab world, Israel has refrained from the planned settlement in east Jerusalem for the time being. Nevertheless, further apartments for Jews are to be built in the Arab part of the city. Can peace still be saved?

[Mubarak] The peace process is not only vital for Egypt, but for the whole region and even for the whole world. However, above all, we want peace to be based on justice. I am afraid that without justice a ruler in some state of this region will turn everything upside down and plunge the Middle East into turmoil.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does Israel's claim to the whole of Jerusalem violate this principle?

[Mubarak] The present development frightens me. According to the Oslo agreement, Jerusalem should be the last point at the negotiating table. That was a clever decision because, by that time, the Palestinians would have gotten back their territory, formed a functioning government and controlled the West Bank and Gaza. Oil would have been poured on the troubled waters — only then would we have come together and discussed Jerusalem reasonably.

[DER SPIEGEL] Instead, the people's feelings have now been stirred.

[Mubarak] That is the tactics. The entire peace process must not be endangered because of a few hectares here or there. However, instead of negotiating calmly and coolly on the future of the city, the problem of Jerusalem is on the verge of hitting us with the explosive force of

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a bomb at a completely unexpected and far too early time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did peace mediator Mubarak not explain the explosiveness of the issue to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in time?

[Mubarak] Jerusalem is not only the business of the Palestinians and Israelis, but also of millions of Muslims and Christians. I told Rabin often enough how heavily Jerusalem is burdening public opinion in the Islamic world. I gave him the following advice: Do not always bring Jerusalem up and, if you do it all the same, point out that this problem will be solved at the end of the peace process.

[DER SPIEGEL] Apparently, he does not listen to your advice.

[Mubarak] When it is now declared that Jerusalem will forever be the undivided capital of Israel, this is, of course, connected with the Israeli election campaign, which has already started and appeals to the voters' feelings. However, such slogans also have an effect on public opinion in the Islamic world and embarrass the responsible people.

[DER SPIEGEL] You, too?

[Mubarak] All those who canvass for peace. The people put pressure on their leaders and ask: Why do you surrender Jerusalem? You cannot imagine what will happen if religious feelings, whether of Muslims, Christians, or Jews, are roused. The emotions of peoples cannot be controlled, as the Intifadah showed. Nobody can handcuff a whole nation.

[DER SPIEGEL] The peace negotiations had already reached a deadlock before. Prominent Palestinians and Israelis had already declared the spirit of Oslo dead. What way out of this messed-up situation do you see?

[Mubarak] First of all, Israel must not resolve any more expropriations of land, such provocations were all we needed. Second, the Oslo Agreement, which was signed by Israel and the PLO, must be implemented without cuts.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, Israel does not seem to be in a hurry. Rabin made it once again explicitly clear that he does not accept a limitation of Jerusalem's development.

[Mubarak] Yes, the atmosphere is poisoned. The people are losing faith in peace. The positive change of mind of many Arabs toward Israel is gone. Have a look at how King Husayn of Jordan is faring: He no longer feels in agreement with his people; the parliament and public opinion call for the cancellation of the peace agreement with Israel and the ambassador's withdrawal.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are you, as the chief of the most important Arab state, planning to do against it?

[Mubarak] Israel calls for the normalization of relations. But how can someone want a normalization if he causes, at the same time, indignation and antagonizes the Muslims and Arabs? If everything had worked as planned and the Israeli occupation forces had withdrawn from the Palestinian population centers — which has been overdue for months — all of us would be relaxed and confident today. However, the present situation is as if a knife had been thrust into the hearts of the peoples of the region.

[DER SPIEGEL] It is impossible that Israel's attitude really surprised the Arabs. Jerusalem is the soul of their state.

[Mubarak] The soul and history of the Muslims and Christians is also closely connected with Jerusalem.

[DER SPIEGEL] What kind of status for the Holy City would satisfy the Jews, Muslims, and Christians equally? Would it be conceivable to turn the holy places into an extraterritorial area, like the property of the Holy See on Italian territory?

[Mubarak] Let us leave that to the negotiating parties. I do not want to rule out anything.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can the problem be permanently defused, without dividing the city again?

[Mubarak] It would be difficult to divide Jerusalem on all levels. However, it is certainly possible to agree on a formula with which the Israelis and Palestinians can live without losing face. However, that requires a basis of confidence that allows compromises on both sides. The agreement on Jerusalem can only be the highlight of a long work of peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, progress cannot be perceived, mutual aversion is increasing.

[Mubarak] If progress is not made anywhere, we will relapse into the status quo — everything will again be as if Madrid and Oslo had not happened. If Israel really wants peace, it has to act in a way that allows the speedy progress of the initiated process or everything will be complete chaos. I am afraid of exactly that.

[DER SPIEGEL] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has had to put up with many humiliations. How much can the Israelis still expect of him?

[Mubarak] 'Arafat is not to be envied. The opponents of the agreement with Israel, which was approved by him, now reproach him in this way: There you are, Israel has not fulfilled the agreements with you, it has not

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withdrawn its troops and it has not enabled you to hold elections. And you do not get money either. All that is pointless, we continue to be in Israel's clutch. 'Arafat's enemies can claim that they have been right and more and more Palestinians believe that Israel does not want peace at all. That would be fatal.

[DER SPIEGEL] What advice would you now give to 'Arafat?

[Mubarak] As matters stand at present, it is impossible for me to encourage him to regard land as lost, to agree to a division of the Palestinian territory, and to forego Jerusalem. I can only recommend what is right.

[DER SPIEGEL] What will happen if 'Arafat gives up because he is unnerved and moves out of Gaza? Would you take him in?

[Mubarak] It will probably not come to that. However, if 'Arafat really came to us one day, we would welcome him. How can we deny hospitality to an Arab, since we received the shah of Persia?

[DER SPIEGEL] The weaker 'Arafat becomes, the stronger the militant Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, gets. Are the terrorists the real gravediggers of the peace process?

[Mubarak] If 'Arafat really gives up, that will be bad. I hope that nobody thinks that in that case a solution of the Palestinian problem will still be possible.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does the peace plan therefore stand and fall with him?

[Mubarak] If 'Arafat is no longer there, unrestrained extremism will win through. Nobody will be able to say who fights against whom. And as soon as a terrorist group is imprisoned, the next one will take action.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was the Oslo agreement perhaps wrongly designed from the start? The treaty did not result in an agreement on the objective, but only on the way. The Israelis want to grant limited autonomy, while the Palestinians are calling for full sovereignty.

[Mubarak] The Palestinians are not even able to get the least out for themselves. It would have made little sense if they had demanded even more — completely in accordance with the Arab saying: I content myself with misery, but misery does not want to take care of me.

[DER SPIEGEL] It becomes increasingly evident that in the Israeli-Palestinian talks there is only one in control: Rabin. He determines the speed as he likes.

[Mubarak] The Israeli politicians are all entangled in the election campaign, every man against every man. Their priorities have changed, as a result of which they destroy everything.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel can still rely on the United States to be on its side. In the United Nations, Washington prevented the condemnation of the announced expropriation of land. Has the U.S. veto in the World Security Council, the first since 1990, caught you cold?

[Mubarak] By God, that made me very sad. The United States was alone against 14 states in the Security Council. I do not understand why Washington takes sides in such a partial way. That was a shock for the whole of the Arab world.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has the United States therefore lost its credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East?

[Mubarak] It has had us in great trouble....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...in addition, the Republicans in Congress even want to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

[Mubarak] Election tactics also in the United States. President Clinton does not want to transfer the embassy, but I warn: If that were to happen, it would have the effect of an explosive charge. The world would witness the flare-up of all kinds of extremism. I would rather not explain to you what I would expect in such a case.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, a certain double standard of the United States was also shown in the negotiations on the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Israel may keep its secret, uncontrolled nuclear arsenal, while the Arabs are supposed to forego nuclear weapons forever.

[Mubarak] Spare me a discussion on the unpleasant topic.

[DER SPIEGEL] Al-Qadhdhafi has already called for the Arab nuclear bomb. Can Israel's refusal to accede to the NPT trigger a nuclear race in the Middle East?

[Mubarak] If we do not get the problem under control in the next few years, several states will participate in the race.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would Egypt be one of them?

[Mubarak] We want to keep the Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction. We cannot silently watch how nuclear weapons are handled only 40 km from our borders. If we do not manage to ban mass destruction weapons from our part of the world now, we will stumble into an arms race with or without the treaty.

[DER SPIEGEL] Without being hindered, the Israelis create accomplished facts. The Americans protect them. After the Soviet Union's disintegration, there is no longer an opposing power to the United States to which the Arabs could turn....

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[Mubarak] ...the frustrations are increasing. I fear an explosion. I wish we succeeded in letting the air out of the balloon before it bursts and the pieces fly into our face.

[DER SPIEGEL] The United States is still strangling Iraq; it is increasing the pressure on Libya and is perhaps preparing a strike against Iran. Do the Arab states put up with all that without contradiction?

[Mubarak] Force does not solve any problems, but it foments hatred against the one who strikes the blow. With a view to the escalating emotions, I advise the Americans to refrain from the use of force.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you hope for more sympathy and assistance from the Europeans? You will receive the German chancellor in a few days. How could the FRG and Europe contribute to getting the peace process going again?

[Mubarak] Helmut Kohl is our friend. The FRG belongs to the Western donor countries that help the Palestinians. The development projects on Palestinian soil should be resolutely tackled, so that the Palestinians get work and hope. Affluence and confidence are the best means against extremism.

[DER SPIEGEL] In contrast to Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO, Syria has not yet concluded an agreement with Israel. Is President Al- Asad's skepticism justified?

[Mubarak] The people in Damascus think: Israel does not adhere to its agreements with the Palestinians; what is to prevent the Israelis from dealing with us in a similar way?

[DER SPIEGEL] Could the tensions also induce Egypt to freeze its relations with Israel? Peace has not been very warm anyway.

[Mubarak] The warming or cooling of relations are developments that are closely connected with the general mood of the peoples. If Israel does not do anything to fulfill its commitments, I will tell the people here that we do not need such a normalization. It is certain that the dove of peace is in serious danger.

[DER SPIEGEL] The hardening is most likely to help the Islamic zealots and fanatic nationalists.

[Mubarak] It is clear that extremists benefit from it. They become active against us and Israel because they get, in addition, money from the outside. That is disastrous.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Muslim Brotherhood has already called for a holy war for the liberation of Jerusalem....

[Mubarak] Israel supplies the logs for a fire that the extremists continue to fan. If this mentality does not change, Israel will not find anyone in the Middle East who cooperates with it. The Israelis should give up their arrogance — or what else do you want to call the fact that they revel in a joint Middle East market and think about the abolition of the Arab League and to found a Middle East league? It is one of our sayings that arrogance kills its upholders.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is the Middle East peace process really irreversible or could a situation where war again becomes conceivable develop under certain circumstances?

[Mubarak] The peace process must go on. The states that oppose it have to realize that they are playing a dangerous game. However, if we leave the path of peace, we will find ourselves in a starting position that is far more dangerous than before. Something will explode. Violence will spread and then everything will be conceivable.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, thank you for this interview.

Mubarak on Regional Situation, Blockade on Iran

NC2905072495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA) — President Mubarak has affirmed that achieving stability and security in the Middle East will not happen by making progress on the Syrian track alone, but by solving the Palestinian problem, the core of the Middle East dispute. Unless a solution is found for this problem, Palestinian land will turn into a pit of violence and terrorism in the region, the president said. He added that the Israelis agreed on the Declaration of Principles with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat only to turn over to him the problem of fighting violence and terrorism, which they failed to do.

The president was speaking to newspaper editors on his way back from Paris. The interview will be published today.

President Mubarak said that 'Arafat came to Cairo last week to explain developments in the Palestinian arena. The president welcomed the good relations between 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan, adding that this has a positive impact on the Palestinian issue. The president also noted the improved relations between Saudi Arabia and the Palestinians.

In his interview with the chief editors, President Mubarak revealed that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary, visited Israel to convey his message to the Israeli leadership. In my message,

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I explained the need to comply with agreements to sustain the peace process and stressed the importance of Jerusalem for both Muslims and Arabs, pointing out that any unilateral measure in Jerusalem will cause the collapse of the peace process, Mubarak said.

Touching on the issue of Jerusalem and the U.S. veto, the president remarked that all this could have been avoided if the United States had abstained from voting, particularly since all the members condemned Israel and demanded a stop to expropriation. It could have also approved a resolution on the Israeli aggression on Jerusalem, which is a very important symbol for Muslims and Christians alike, the president said.

President Mubarak said that Kuwaiti Amir Sahykh Jabir al-Ahmad's visit to Egypt today is part of the regular meetings to exchange views on Arab and international issues. He added that he will hold talks with Shaykh Jabir on developments in the Gulf and possible action to achieve Arab solidarity and serve pan-Arab goals.

On chances of achieving Arab reconciliation, President Mubarak remarked that this is a very difficult matter and that the Kuwaitis and Saudis need time to forget Saddam Husayn's aggression. Restoring confidence is a very difficult thing; it is the major obstacle hindering any move toward Arab reconciliation at present, he said.

Touching on the call to impose an economic blockade on Iran, the president said: We are against this blockade. If it is a matter of nuclear proliferation, the principles should apply to all, including Israel, he remarked.

The president added: We will not be a party to a blockade on anyone, even if Iran still supports terrorist elements and fails to take any step forward because of its domestic problems.

The president touched on relations with Sudan, noting that [terrorist] training camps still operate under the nose of the Sudanese Government. He added that forged passports are still being issued in Sudan and that Usamah Bin-Ladin's suspicious moves still involve training for terrorists and organizing their operations.

Talking about [alleged] state assistance to parties, the president said: I do not give money to parties, including the National Democratic Party. He remarked that he is against the granting of privileges to some parties in trade transactions that increase the burden on the ordinary citizen. He referred to hajj visas, which some parties sold on the black market.

As for the nomination of Copts and women for legislative councils, the president stressed that it is important to encourage such nominations. Everybody should provide all the necessary assistance to achieve this and to help these elements succeed and serve the national goals.

The president emphasized that his major concern is to complete the economic reform process in a manner that serves the citizens' interests and guarantees a good life for future generations.

Mubarak Discusses Paris Visit, Nuclear Power Plants

NC2805120395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has reemphasized the need to solve the Palestinian-Israeli problem, which is the "core of the Middle East issue." He said that solving this problem is a "peace guarantee" that will avert any terrorist operations that threaten security and stability.

The president made these remarks in an interview with the Cairo newspaper AL-MASA' conducted during his return flight to Cairo yesterday and published today.

Asked about the prospects of holding an expanded Arab summit, President Mubarak told AL-MASA' that such a summit needs a lot of effort and time to arrange because of the circumstances that the Arab nation passed through after the Gulf war.

Regarding his ongoing consultations with other Arab leaders about issues of mutual interest, President Mubarak said he will meet on 29 May with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

President Mubarak pointed out that his talks with Shaykh Jabir will deal with conditions in the Middle East, the Gulf, and bilateral ties.

Commenting on his visit to Paris and his meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, President Mubarak said that he is "optimistic" about the visit. He noted that his talks with Chirac were "constructive and useful" and that their views were almost identical concerning most current world issues.

President Mubarak said that he has known Jacques Chirac for 20 years and never let an opportunity pass to meet with him throughout that period.

Concerning his special relationship with former French president Francois Mitterrand, President Mubarak said that during his stay in Paris he telephoned Mitterrand and gave him his best wishes. He added that he told Mitterrand that he is willing to visit him at any time but Mitterrand said that he was staying at a place 700 km from Paris.

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Mubarak said that he invited Mitterrand to visit Egypt and the latter promised to come.

Asked about the likelihood of building nuclear power generating plants, Mubarak said that building such stations is exorbitantly expensive and that Egypt might not be able to handle the cost.

He remarked: For this reason I approve of the private sector building a nuclear power plant with private funds and the state will pay the cost of the electricity that is generated.

Discussing privatization in Egypt, President Mubarak said that privatization is "proceeding according to a precise plan."

He declared: We will not sell public sector companies at a nominal price for any reason whatever.

Asked what benefits economic reform measures have brought to Egyptian citizens, the president said that everything that is happening now is a fruit of the economic reform program. He pointed out that commodities are now plentiful, production and investments have increased, and there are more jobs for young people. He said that other benefits have been a lower inflation rate without having to levy new taxes or large-scale price control.

Regarding German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's expected visit to Egypt, President Mubarak said that he will meet with Kohl next Friday [2 June] and they will discuss several issues of mutual interest, particularly Middle Eastern issues, the situation in the Gulf, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and bilateral ties.

Asked about the implementation of the Mubarak-Kohl educational program, particularly in the field of vocational training, President Mubarak said that agreement has been reached to establish a vocational training center in Madinat al-'Ashir Min Ramadan, east of Cairo, as the first fruit of this project.

In the context of cooperation with various other countries, President Mubarak told AL-MASA' that Switzerland has allocated 150 million Swiss francs for Egypt that Switzerland will use to develop its rural areas.

Musa Comments on Ties with France, Jerusalem Issue

NC2805071695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0620 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that he expects improvement in the fields of communications and coordination between Egyptian and French diplomats during the term of President Jacques Chirac. The foreign minister also expects that France and Europe will play more active roles in the issues of peace and cooperation as well as in issues involving the future Middle East regional order. 'Amr Musa voiced the hope that a more effective role will be played in the new cooperation tracks in the Mediterranean region.

In statements to AL-AHRAM newspaper, to be published today, the foreign minister added that Egyptian-French relations are not only political. They are also historic and cultural, the foreign minister said. Musa said that the cultural cooperation will represent the broadest venue in the Egyptian-French communication.

'Amr Musa voiced optimism over the French role and French-Egyptian relations, noting that the close and good relationship between Presidents Mubarak and Chirac will help augment this relationship.

Responding to a question on whether France adopts a stand different from that of the United States regarding the hot issues in the region such as the issue of Jerusalem, the foreign minister said: Obviously, France has a different opinion. The French position was extremely good in the vote in favor of the UN Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem. This is an important message. However, we must put these differences in the proper context because we do not make judgments from just one angle and we do not see things as either completely white or completely black, the foreign minister added.

Continuing, the foreign minister said: We know that there are differences, but these must be viewed in the proper perspective. We can understand how and why this or that state builds its diplomacy. But we would be wrong if we interpret the words of any official that there is a French-U.S. conflict or there is an alliance on various issues. The foreign minister noted that the issue of Jerusalem has demonstrated that French diplomacy enjoys more freedom of movement than any other party. Musa added that this is indeed welcome.

To another question about the Egyptian-French relations, the foreign minister said that the relations revolve around bilateral, Arab, European, and Middle East domains. I expect that efforts will soon begin by European and Mediterranean countries in these fields. These efforts, however, will have nothing to do with the peace process or the multilateral negotiations, Musa said. He added that the Barcelona conference on Mediterranean cooperation, slated to be held in November, is completely independent and, therefore, it is expected that Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, and other countries will attend it. We will not raise any issues dealing with Middle East peace during this conference because it will

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only deal with cooperation with the Middle East countries.

Writer Blames Arab Governments for U.S. Veto

NC3005210595 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 May 95 p 6

[Article by Dr. Ibrahim Dassuqi Abazah: "This is Your Worth"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Why this anger and wrath against the United States? What happened in the Security Council represented exactly what we are and our worth to the U.S. Administration. Peoples that live off U.S. money and depend on its protection cannot hope for a better stand than the recent U.S. one in the Security Council. The bankrupt weakling or the weakling bankrupt cannot hope for the generosity or fairness of those who are strong. The issue of the full or part-time partner is merely a lie that the weaklings cling to against the strong to cover up their subservience, humiliation, and ignominy.

Yet I never expected the humiliation to reach the level where the United States would use its veto to protect Israel from a resolution that undoubtedly condemned it for usurping Arab territories and assassinating the peace, which it claims it is seeking every minute. I never expected the strong ones' cleverness and acumen to take them to this level of disdain and scorn for 200 million Arabs living between the Gulf and the ocean, even if the latter are cattle or the remnants of extinct races, like the Red Indians.

I am certain that the issue is ultimately one of governments and rulers and not one of peoples and nations. Arab policies in general and the Egyptian ones in particular have never been effective in coordinating stances toward the United States and its Western allies. The Arabs have not known throughout their long revolutionary history something called a unified strategy on the Arab region's issues. They have not even known a single point of agreement in their foreign policy on the Palestinian issue. All their actions have been and remain like the wedding of the deaf.

These regimes and governments are responsible for making the Arab peoples feel lost in an international arena that knows only the strong, because these peoples have no control over their fates and do not rule themselves but are ruled by tyrannical governments that manage their affairs like a landlord does with his possession. As to the Arab League, it only embraces all these tyrannical governments and therefore has completely failed to confront the Arab world's most fateful issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

There is no reason for sadness and anger. There is no meaning for wrath and violence as long as the peoples have not played their role and have not used their resources. The situation and the view of this enslaved and defeated Arab world are bound to change when the peoples start to govern themselves by themselves. As long as the peoples remain isolated from the regimes, then we should expect more humiliation and shame and even more retreats and collapses before the Israeli dinosaur that finds nothing to stop it.

But the governments' media fog in the Arab world is still trying to hide the bitter truth and is painting it in vivid colors of false bravados that do not deceive the Arab peoples anymore. To this day, the Palestinians have got no more than 4 percent of their usurped territories. They are still negotiating for a loaf of bread or a cup of water despite this humiliation. The Zionists continue to procrastinate and maneuver arrogantly as if the world has submitted and is under their feet.

Why avoid the facts and what benefit is there in hiding them? The Arab governments defeated us in all our battles with Israel and then deprived us of the right to popular defense against an usurping enemy that is publicly arming itself with nuclear bombs. They signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaties when Israel refused to do so. What remains for Israel to complete its plan? What will deter and stop it if it wants to Judaize Jerusalem or usurp any part in the Arab world it wants?

The road is completely open before Israel and others to devour the Arab world from the Gulf to the ocean. There are no economic or political obstacles preventing a sweep of this world and subjugating it to serve the major powers. Most of the ruling regimes are panting after foreign aid and protection. They find no obstacles to granting privileges or extending services to these major powers, even if they conflict with pan-Arab interests. Our country is, for example, a cemetery for the industrial world's wastes, an immense experimental field for its chemicals and medicines, and a vast market for its obsolete ammunition and weapons. No other spot on earth is providing such privileges. Our countries are also awash with oil wealth and the resultant financial surpluses have swamped the European and U.S. banks, which lend them to us in the form of loans that activate the European and U.S. economies and make the West prosper.

This is the truth: There is a large farm called the Arab world. None of its peoples plant it or reap its fruits but it is planted and its fruits are reaped by intruders and foreigners, both enemies and friends. Instead of calling for an Arab nuclear bomb to deter Israel and its allies, we first have to call for a bomb for hitting

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Arab dictatorship and restoring sovereignty to the Arab peoples. Only then will the balances and the stances change.

Writer Considers Signs of Changing U.S. Policy

NC2905073695 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 May 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Veto and Jerusalem; A New U.S. Policy: War and Confrontation or Isolation?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The justifications presented by the U.S. Administration for using the veto against the Jerusalem resolution are not sufficient to explain the U.S. stance. The U.S. logic is entirely unconvincing. According to this logic, no one, including the Security Council, which is responsible for world peace and security, has the right to interfere in the matter, which should be left to the two disputants — the aggressor and the party aggressed upon — to find a formula for the settlement or "surrender," to be more precise.

Equally unconvincing is the claim, or the analysis, that says that the Clinton administration's weakness or "craving" to grab a new presidential term in 1996 have led the administration and its leader to the Zionist Israeli trap in their quest to obtain the votes of the American Jews. As a result, the decision has ended up in the hands of Tel Aviv, not Washington.

The reason for dismissing this logic and for ruling out the two interpretations is that the U.S. policy is changing and that the U.S. practices are becoming hardline and even violent. A careful and close examination of the U.S. mood and decision clearly discloses that Washington is heading toward creating crises, not toward reconciliation or calming things down, not only in the Middle East but all over the world. It also reveals that the dreams of "globalism" and the new world order, the substitute for the Cold War, are nothing more than experiments, tests, or illusions. The striking thing that is evident from the close observation is that Washington is pursuing this path and adopting this line from two angles that may seem contradictory but in essence are integrated.

The first is the call for "isolation," which is an old U.S. concept that is currently being adopted by the Republican majority, which is in control of the Congress. The second is the policy of confrontation and toughness that is currently being pursued by the Clinton administration against allies and friends, the same as it is against competitors and enemies.

It may be beneficial to prove our argument that U.S. policy has undergone a dramatic change in the past two years and that this change is heading toward a confrontation, toughness, and even irrational and unjustified aggression. In this regard, we will cite some signs and incidents as examples:

1. The concerted onslaught by the U.S. press and some administration officials, directly or indirectly, against Egypt and Saudi Arabia in the past two years under various names and excuses.

2. The obstinate determination to maintain the punishment and blockade against both Libya and Iraq, despite the inhuman conditions and suffering experienced by the two peoples. More than that, the U.S. Administration is trying to toughen the sanctions and, despite its failure, it keeps trying.

3. The opening of an acute confrontation line with Tehran in the name of and under the excuse of "Iran's nuclear inclinations," despite the guarantees presented by China and Russia to both the United States and Egypt that the nuclear technology they are offering is intended for peaceful and not military purposes and despite Tehran opening its nuclear centers and reactors to U.S. and foreign journalists to see for themselves that it has no secret to hide. This is what is happening in our Middle Eastern region. At the same time, guarantees for Israel's nuclear and military capability are being given unconditionally and without restraint at a time when Washington is putting pressure on the entire world for an indefinite extension of the nuclear treaty. But let us go back to the signs of the hard-line and violent political practices of the Clinton administration.

4. The grinding war that Washington has suddenly waged against Japan, its "senior Asian ally." Washington has started the war of automobiles and their spare parts by imposing sanctions on luxury Japanese cars and subjecting them to a 100 percent duty. It is a first class economic war that has sent the yen skyrocketing and brought the dollar to the lowest levels in an attempt to undermine the Japanese commodities' ability to compete and to open the doors of all markets for U.S. goods, which cost fewer dollars. It is an escalating war in terms of its steps, methods, and fields. It is a war of subjugation first and foremost. Either Japan kneels down and opens its doors for the U.S. invasion or bears the consequences and the resulting evils.

5. One of the manifestations of the political and economic violence is the blockade that Washington has begun to impose on the Russian Federation and its friend, President Yeltsin, by expanding NATO operations and enlarging NATO membership by taking in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Its aim is to form a barrier preventing contact and communication between Russia

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and its vital region in Central Europe. This is in addition to the occasional pressure applied whenever there is need, exploiting the human rights issue or the economic pressure and threat to halt aid and loans if Moscow does not break the nuclear reactor deal with Iran.

6. If we leave Russia and head to the Far East, to China, we find the pendulum is fluctuating between threat, pressure, and punishment. Pressure is applied under the name of human rights, democracy, and political liberalism. Pressure also is applied to halt the Chinese-Iranian agreement on supplying two light-water reactors to generate electricity for Iran.

Furthermore, Washington is interfering in China's sovereign and national affairs, exploiting the status of Hong Kong and its transition to motherland China's sovereignty in 1996 and encouraging Britain to procrastinate or demand difficult or impossible measures with the aim of creating a state within a state.

Also there is the persistent effort by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Far East, Asia, and the Pacific in the countries of this region, namely in the South China Sea area. The aim of such efforts is to incite these countries to form a military and political bloc against China, to confront China's interests in this very sensitive and important international water passageway, and to prompt these countries to demand the continuation and intensification of the U.S. military presence there, in addition to the current and old U.S. bases in a bid to surround and preoccupy China.

These are some of the examples indicating the current U.S. mood and strategy that the administration and its agencies are actually implementing worldwide. I think here lies the real danger.

No matter what the reasons motivating the United States to adopt this dangerous policy, the result is:

1. A hot return to the Cold War era in the form of sharp economic confrontations, which were the main prelude to World War II, when economic and colonial competition between the European economic powers reached the point of resorting to weapons and power.

2. The return of hot regional flare-ups in the context of completing security arrangements in various parts of the world, especially in the region of affluence, wealth, and energy: the Middle East, with its oil, revenue, seas, and dominating central position.

3. A return to the John Foster Dulles policy of the 1950s: Full subordination to the metropol [last word as published] in Washington. A policy based on the principle that anyone who is not on my side, whether right or wrong, is against me, without any consideration for the principles of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

4. A return to an unprecedented bias for Israel to reinstate its status as a regional tool to subjugate the Arab region, exhaust and plunder its territories by force, and install Israel as the sole nuclear deterrent power.

This means a complete retreat from peace and from the progress made, not only on the Palestinian front but also on the other fronts. This is a retreat from what has actually been achieved and from the signed accords and treaties, such as those with Egypt and Jordan, and from the peace efforts that have not yet moved, such as with Syria and Lebanon.

I think that the U.S. action at this particular time and during a deliberate attempt by Israel to delay the implementation of the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements is intended to send a message of "retraction" on the entire process. Here lies the danger of using the right of veto, which has remained unused for five years. This is because it was used against the will of the entire world community and the will of the Security Council, which is responsible for establishing world peace and security. It is on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the resolutions concerning Jerusalem, that the peace process is being conducted. The 14 other Security Council members voted in favor of the resolution, while the U.S. delegate was alone in opposing it.

The point I would like to pause at, now that we have come to this conclusion, concerns Israel itself. I believe that the use of the veto was a U.S. decision dictated by a strategy, a policy, and a vision of the interests as part of the new policy of violence, confrontation, and aggression. I believe that Washington's use of the veto was not a traditional act of courtesy toward Israel and was not a kind of "political generosity" normally pursued in the time of U.S. presidential campaigns or congressional mid-term elections, where candidates let off "balloons" for propaganda and vote-gaining but when the time comes for them to deliver, these balloons vanish.

The point I would like to pause at concerns the approach that Rabin and Peres used when they were campaigning in elections, which they won. The main theme they sold to the votes was peace with the Palestinians and Arabs. Land for peace was the rule and criterion accepted by everybody and on which basis the Madrid peace conference was held in 1992. This certainly was not the Israeli viewpoint, which Rabin and Peres adopted and Israeli society accepted. The Israeli military power reached the peak with stockpiles of enough nuclear bombs to destroy the region, its peoples, and countries

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several times, not to mention its arsenal of chemical, biological, and conventional weapons. The strange thing is that this military power, with its devastating tools, has shrunken in the face of the stones carried by Palestinian children and has boiled down to rifles firing plastic bullets carried by the Israeli soldiers or policemen confronting these children. In other words, the entire military arsenal has turned into property placed under "endowment:" Property that you own but are unable to dispose of or use. Rabin and Peres and their voters realized that isolation was the end and destiny and that perpetual enmity was the result. Here Peres started to preach his development project, the development of the region and its peoples. He started to preach regional cooperation based on equality and justice. He started to preach an end to war and hostility and the beginning of a truce under a Middle Eastern framework. Many were drawn to his idea and many believed his words, as a foreign minister and co-partner in power. Many Arab capitals opened its doors to receive Rabin and Peres and many projects for Arab-Israeli cooperation in the field of oil, petrochemicals, and technology materialized. But it seems that an "external intervention" has taken place.

It seems that the Americans, specifically the Clinton administration, was annoyed by this "regional harmony" between the Arabs and Israel, particularly since an agreement such as the Oslo Agreement was reached without their knowledge. It seems that the administration in Washington has decided, with its new orientations, to opt for isolation or toughness, violence, and confrontation. It seems that America has decided to spoil the "process." It seems it has decided to halt the progress in the peace process. We saw this clearly in the Casablanca summit. We noticed a deliberate attempt to distance Egypt and Europe. We noticed that an intrigue was prepared and a plot concocted to distance Egypt from Syria. We also noticed that a regional security plan and security arrangements were prepared at Casablanca and that Egypt was required to sign it without discussion.

I do not think that all these attempts were merely an Israeli arrangement or a U.S. courtesy to Israeli designs that Israel cannot achieve, particularly as it was in a stage of building confidence and seeking acceptance from the Arab countries and Egypt. These and other "suspicions" about the U.S. friend do not stem from a void, but are based on specific precedents. They stem from a sound understanding of the practices of the superpowers that have interests throughout the world. Since we have broached this sensitive point — "lost confidence" — we have to mention some documented facts from books written by American writers, politicians, and professors from Kissinger to William Quandt to Sheehan and others. For example, when an agreement was reached between Field Marshal al-Jamasi and Yariv in the tent on km 101 on the Suez-Cairo highway and Israel agreed under the agreement to withdraw immediately behind the straits in Sinai, Kissinger could not contain his anger and flew to Tel Aviv to meet with Golda Me'ir. He scolded her and forced her to back down on the 101 km tent agreement because it would ease the grip and pressure on Egypt and its encircled Third Army. Me'ir obliged and gave in to his demand.

In the second example, which is documented like the first, when an initial agreement was reached on stages, steps, and arrangements for the disengagement of forces on the Syrian front in the mid- 1970s, Israel agreed to dismantle a number of settlements in the area from which it would withdraw on the Golan. Kissinger did the same, forcing Israel to retract this decision and speaking his famous line: If Israel embarks on this "precedent" of dismantling the settlements and discharging the settlers, it will not be able to avoid it in the future.

In the third example, after the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the meeting between Lebanese and Israeli military officers to work out arrangements for withdrawal, the two sides agreed on an unconditional Israeli withdrawal. The United States interfered and the agreement was withdrawn and negotiations began to reach a new agreement, which was later known as the 17 May Agreement. A new provision was introduced into the agreement linking full Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory to withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon. The situation became complicated.

Anyway, this time we are faced with a more serious confrontation. It is not merely an Israeli design, which does exist, but a new U.S. policy based on isolation or confrontation. Both require political, economic, and perhaps military violence and aggression.

Land Seizure, U.S. Veto, Counteractions Viewed

NC2805060895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic dedicates a considerable portion of its 23 May edition to the issue of Israel's expropriation of Arab lands and the U.S. veto of a UN resolution condemning this act.

Chief editor Jalal Duwaydar, in his 1,200 word article "Yes There Is a Difference" on pages 1 and 5, runs a comparison between the American and European positions on "the Israeli aggression" and concludes that "there is a big difference" between the two positions.

Duwaydar finds the European position "objective, true, fair, and committed to international legitimacy," while

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the American position was "the exact opposite: Biased to and backing and supporting the violation of legitimacy and international law."

Noting that "14 states, representing the will of the international community" stood against the expropriation, he says that "America alone broke away from this unanimity for the sake of its spoiled child, Israel, which would not have existed without American support." He remarks that during the UN Security Council session, "America disgracefully and revoltingly rejected all the principles that provide the pillars for any fair world order."

Saying that America, "the unfair partner," used "the rotten veto" against the draft resolution, Duwaydar cites the French delegate, who regretted this and described the illegal Israeli measures as a violation of international law that ignores the spirit of the Declaration of Principles and UN resolutions. He notes that these remarks were only in reaction to the American position and the "naive justifications America's Golda Meir, Madeleine Albright" gave for the veto.

The writer concludes by saying: "The position taken by the French delegate before and after voting was the type of civilized conduct only becoming that of European greatness. True, there were differences once in a while between us and some European states on a number of issues, but they never reached the stage of standing unabashed and in total impudence with aggression to our rights, just as the American friend is doing now. I do not recall that an aggressive small state one day hired a major state at its service, the way America now works for Israel."

In his 500 word column "A Comment" on page 2, Ahmad Hasan sees "an insult that warrants a speedy response" in remarks Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin made to the media in reaction to the planned Arab summit to discuss the expropriation of land in Jerusalem. Beilin warned Arabs against "sabotaging peace efforts" and stressed that "Arabs have no better option than normalization with Israel."

The writer maintains that the "plan to Judaize Jerusalem is a sustained strategy" rather than an attempt by Rabin to score points before the elections. He adds that Israel is aware of the "Arab discord" after the Gulf war which prompted an Israeli commentator to reply, "we will have to wait for years to see the leaders of 22 Arab states sitting together in the same place." He notes that Israel established itself as "a state above the law that commits all crimes with the protection of the U.S. veto."

Hasan finally hopes Arab leaders will hold a minisummit and adopt a strong pan-Arab position "to respond to the Israeli hooligans."

Page 3 features Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad's 500-word column "Words," where he says that the difficult position that puts Arabs "up against" America, the "biggest and strongest world state," and Israel, the "most dangerous state" in the Middle East, requires "wisdom, courage, and some sacrifice."

He sees a need to take "a unified Arab decision against America and Israel" because of Jerusalem, Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, America's bias toward Israel, and the two countries' plans to make Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel.

He believes that officials must be very careful in calculating their remarks since "the consequences can be very grave," while other people can think loudly about what can be done without fear of being brought to account.

Murad notes that he heard many suggestions on how to respond to the situation. These include ones "to stop normalization with Israel, to boycott Israeli products..., to suspend or annul the Camp David and Oslo agreements, to restart Palestinian armed struggle... and to boycott American products." He concludes, however, that it is not easy to decide and that the "difficulty lies in our ability as Arabs to agree among ourselves."

The newspaper's 300-word editorial "Today's Word" on page 4 talks about "The Impossible Peace That Rabin Dreams About." It says that the Arab minisummit that meets in Morocco to discuss the Israeli provocations "should teach Rabin and his government an unforgettable lesson on how to deal in a civilized manner with the Arab states, whom Rabin's fantasies lured into believing that he is capable of deceiving with a false peace whose fruits Israel alone will pick as he keeps up his suspicious schemes."

The paper adds that the summit resolutions should primarily reiterate to the Israeli rulers clearly and firmly that "peace needs two or more parties and a climate prevailed by sincerity, good will, honest desire to reach it, and abstention from any provocative conduct that mars the clarity of the ongoing dialogue among the various parties."

AL-AKHBAR adds that "the quick results" Rabin achieved with certain Arab parties made Rabin think that he could keep up his provocative acts.

The paper believes that curing this requires "a swift slap that brings Rabin back to his senses and makes him

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reconsider his positions, which make the restoration of peace in the Middle East an unattainable goal."

The paper finally says that peace involves a price to be paid by each party. "The impossible is to let Israel enjoy the fruits of peace free of charge and refuse to abandon its aggressive attitudes," AL-AKHBAR says.

A 2,500-word report by Muhammad Darwish and Amani Durgham, page 5, "feels the pulse of the Egyptian street" and notes "a popular veto against the American position."

The report describes the feelings of the Egyptian people toward the U.S. veto as "boiling," noting that voices are demanding "resolute reactions at the official and popular levels." It adds that some people demanded "a boycott of U.S. products" and called on Arab leaders to "leave their differences behind" before the minisummit. They stressed that the minisummit resolutions must be "effective and straightforward to be a surprise to America and Israel."

Former Minister Wajih Shindi states that Israel violated international law, the UN resolutions, and the rules of international peace and good neighborliness. He maintains that the Israeli policy is "governed by the logic of domination and discrimination rather than by that of peace and cooperation." He believes that the region needs to "change its reality to possess the productive and economic and, accordingly, the political power to handle such situations in the future." Expressing support for the planned Arab summit, he believes that Arabs need other summits to deal with reality in the long run.

Dr. Ma'mun 'Ashur, a professor at the faculty of medicine, believes that the American-Israeli alliance is "primarily strategic" and that the United States firmly believes that "Jews are more worthy of Jerusalem." He sees a need for Arabs to "pull themselves together" and hopes the minisummit will do that.

Taha 'Arafah, M.A. in computers and the "author of many books about terrorism and Islam," believes that the U.S. veto "unmasked America's real face, as a colonialist state that is hostile to the people's right to live in peace and to any Arab right that conflicts with Israel's desire to expand and dominate the sanctities of the region's people." He hopes the summit will issue resolutions that "quench Arab people's thirst for revenge." To do that, he believes that Arabs should bury the hatchet, "rise above their differences, and determine their points of strength and use them to develop a counteraction to the American action."

Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Kilani, a university professor and deputy chairman of the Greens Party, describes the American veto as "using brute strength." He expects this to trigger an angry reaction in the Arab and Muslim worlds, as well as in the entire world. He hopes to see "a popular boycott for all American products in the Arab and Muslim world" to make the American citizen "experience the negative consequences of his government's conduct." He notes that the American aid "is not worth six-day's work in Egypt" and that "it will not hurt us if America threatens to cut it," since it stands to lose as well.

Dr. Fayiz Murad Mina, a university professor, says that the American veto shows "full and clear bias and questions the credibility of the new world order." He finds "no justification" for the American conduct and hopes the minisummit will produce "actual measures that reflect Arabs' seriousness vis-a-vis a real catastrophe."

Accountant Rif'at Radwan states that the U.S. veto was "disappointing for any person who is eager to see major states pursuing a fair approach in dealing with others." He adds that the veto "arouses Arab masses' anger and makes them lose confidence in the U.S. role as well as the UN Security Council's role in establishing justice."

Dr. Ahmad Lutfi 'Awad, a pathologist, says that America "monopolizes world authority" and that this should be taken into consideration when Arabs draw up their policy toward the United States. He thinks the summit can achieve the desired goal "if we have the sincere will and if we leave personal interests behind us."

Dr. Tariq 'Abd-al-'Azim, a professor at the faculty of medicine, affirms that the U.S. veto "involves a loss for the United States" since any step the Arabs might take in reaction "will cause a big loss to the American interests in the Arab and Muslim world."

Engineer Hamdi 'Abd-al-'Aziz, an electronics expert, believes that the U.S. veto "dealt a fatal blow to the peace process."

Usamah Halawah, a teacher at the Lawyers Institute, believes it is high time "to prove our ability to confront the American policy." He adds that the "Arab people can impose on themselves an economic blockade before America does that... through boycotting America politically and economically and severing all ties with the American people and their tail, Israel."

Dr. Midhat Hasanayn, a professor at the American University in Cairo, was disappointed at the U.S. veto, "which was not in the interest of the peace process." He adds that the veto "brought back all the bitterness and frustrations we experienced after the 1967 defeat."

Dr. Hasan 'Ubayd, a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, believes that the U.S.

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"deeply believes that Jerusalem is Israel's capital." Noting that the U.S. policy pursues higher American interests, he says that the Arab summit can reflect the weight Arabs can carry, unite Arab views vis-a-vis the Zionist lobby, and bring this to bear on the U.S. policy.

Poet Hayat Abu-al-Nasr affirms that the U.S. veto was prompted by Zionist pressure and that "we Arabs should stand united against America."

Engineer Muhammas Sa'id 'Uthman believes that the practical reaction to the U.S. veto is "to boycott American products."

Finally, Muhammad Shawqi, a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, says that America was "very despotic" in using the right entrusted to it.

Libya

Clinton Invitation Due to 'Permanent Danger'

LD2805211495 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The JANA political editor has noticed the repeated attacks made against the U.S. White House, the residence of the U.S. President and his family. These attacks have escalated this year and have reached an average of two attacks per 72 hours. The editor points to the statements made by observers, according to which these regular attacks have targeted the life of the U.S. President and have made his life in the White House one of permanent danger, putting him in a situation that deprives him of any stability and prevents him from ruling the country.

The JANA political editor stressed that following this analysis of the scale of these repeated attempts, the invitation addressed to the U.S. President and his wife to live in Libya was a serious and necessary invitation to guarantee the life of Clinton and his wife.

The JANA political editor concluded his analysis by saying that in the face of this continuous threat to the lives of the U.S. President and his wife and the known conspiracies of the CIA and its black history in plotting, the U.S. President and his wife have no alternative but to accept this serious invitation in order to escape the inferno of the U.S. intelligence.

Moroccan Delegation Pays Official Visit

Arrives for Talks

LD2205181795 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Ma'a [May] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — At the time when successive delegations of submission and capitulation for the imperialists and their allies the Israeli [words indistinct] to offer more compromises for Arab rights, and at the time when the Arab cause has become an urgent need for those who are capable of raising its voice and defending it...a high level delegation including popular and professional leaderships, parties and trade unions in sisterly Morocco arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah to express solidarity for the challenge against the imperialist threats which seek to undermine the role of the Arab fortress of resistance.

The Moroccan delegation consists of the secretary of the Socialist Union, the secretary of the Democratic Labour Organization, the secretary of the Independence Party, the general secretary of the Socialist Progress Party, the secretary general of the Democratic Confederation of Labour, the secretary general of the Moroccan Society for the Support of Palestinian People, the deputy secretary general of the workers' trade union, the deputy secretary general of the teachers trade union, the representative of the secretary of lawyers union in addition to a number of journalists.

Meets al-Qadhdhafi, Cites 'Solidarity'

LD2305161395 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al—Qadhdhafi] received the delegation representing leaderships, parties, organizations, and trade unions in sisterly Morocco today. The members of the delegation that is currently visiting our country expressed to the brother leader their total solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the challenges of the crusader West. They also expressed their pride in and appreciation for the vanguard stands adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah in championing the causes of the Arab nation in order to enable this nation to recover its natural place in the world.

The Moroccan delegation is made up of Mohamed Yazghi, first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces; Mohamed Bensaid, secretary general of the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action; Abdelhamid Aoued, representing the secretary general of the Istiqlal Party; Abdelhafid Oualaalou, deputy secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialism; Mohamed Noubir Amaoui, secretary general of the Democratic Confederation of Labor; Khaled Souffiani, secretary general of the Moroccan Society of Support for the Struggle of the Palestinian Arab People; Mohamed Alaoui, deputy secretary general of the General Union of Workers, Bezaoui Kebir, deputy secretary general of the General Union of Teachers; Salah Khaled, representing the secretary general of the Association of Moroccan Lawyers; and correspondent Abdellah Bekalli.

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Further on Meeting al-Qadhdhafi

LD2605144195 Rabat MAP in English 1330 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, May 26 (MAP/POOL/UMA) — A delegation of Moroccan opposition parties and trade unions [words indistinct] to express the '[words indistinct] and unconditional' solidarity of the Moroccan people with Libya which is affected by the [words indistinct] Moroccan 'AL ALAM' daily reported Thursday [25 May].

The delegation, which was received by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi [words indistinct] Assistant First Secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/opposition) Mohamed El Yazghi, secretary general of the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP/leftist opposition) Mohamed Bensaid and member of the Committee of the [words indistinct] Abdelhamid Aouad, and Secretary General of the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT/close to the USFP) Noubir Amaoui.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi voiced gratitude to the Moroccan delegation and stressed the need to exert more efforts to lift the UN embargo 'at least at the Maghreban scale', the daily of the Istiqlal Party said.

The Libyan leader also criticized the occupation by Spain of the Moroccan northern cities of Sebta [placename as received] and Mellila and called for foiling normalization initiatives with Israel, the daily said.

Sudan

Rebels Accept Federalism as Basis for Talks

AB3005121595 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, May 30 (AFP) — Rebels in southern Sudan have accepted federalism as a basis for talks to end their 12-year war against the central government, a senior official was quoted Tuesday [30 May] as saying.

The government official in charge of peace efforts, Metaing Malwal Mabor told the daily AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI that the rebels' readiness to accept a federal settlement would facilitate the drafting of an agenda for forthcoming peace talks.

He said an agreement has been reached between the different rebel factions to consider federalism as a central issue in talks with the government in the framework of a peace initiative sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD).

According to Mabor, the rebels have dropped a long-standing demand for self-determination for southern Sudan where the population differs ethnically and culturally from the mainly Moslem and Arab north.

Mabor expressed appreciation for the efforts of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi and the IGADD members' efforts to bring peace to southern Sudan.

He said Moi would start consultations in coming days with those groups involved in the Sudan conflict so as to set a date for peace talks and various factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

AL-WATANI referred to a report from Nairobi which said junior officers in the SPLA had called for a halt to the war and for a resumption of peace talks with the government of General Omer Al- Bashir.

The Khartoum daily also reported that Christian church leaders in the south were making efforts to reunite the SPLA which has been weakened by splits.

On Thursday, the Sudanese government extended for a further two months, a ceasefire proclaimed two months ago in southern Sudan.

Government Embarks on 'Crackdown' Against Press

AB3005213695 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 30 May 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The authorities in Sudan seem to have embarked on something of a crackdown against the press, particularly the private press, as our correspondent Alfred Taban reports in this telex from Khartoum:

In a move unlikely to improve relations between press and government, a government-appointed body has withdrawn the licenses of two newspapers published in Khartoum. I understand that the so-called Press and Publications Committee [PPC], has decided to withdraw the licenses of the daily newspaper, (AL-FURA), and a weekly newspaper, (AL-ZALAL). The committee has also written to another newspaper, (AL-MUDJUM), telling it to appoint an editor who would be more accountable. The letter implied that if the paper does not do so it could face legal action. All three newspapers are privately owned.

The withdrawal of the licenses is likely to worsen the already edgy relations between newspaper and the PPC, which is part of the Publications Council. The 21-member council was formed in September 1993 by the government. Its function is to register, supervise, and

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lay down the general guidelines for newspapers. It falls directly under Head of State General 'Umar al-Bashir.

Last year, it shut down the AL-NASR newspaper for alleging that Carlos, the international terrorist who was extradited from Sudan to France last year, was sent to Sudan by the Jordanian security organ to embarrass the Sudanese Government. In the same year, it suspended the independent daily, (AL-SUDANI AL-BULIA), and the government-owned (AL-DAFOR AL-DJEBIDA) for up to two weeks for allegedly breaking press regulations. Gen. Al-Bashir later closed down completely (AL-SUDANI AL-BULIA), accusing it of waging psychological warfare against the Armed Forces and of making unsubstantiated allegations of corruption against the government.

The closures have caused a lot of resentment amongst journalists and even members of parliament who, late last month, formed a committee to reconsider the Press and Publications Law which was passed by Gen. Al-Bashir in July 1993.

Presidential Decrees Amend Provincial Divisions

EA2905171795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 May 95

[Decrees issued by President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Council of Ministers, in Khartoum on 27 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, most merciful, most compassionate: The Council of Ministers presents amendments to the Provincial Redivision Law of 1991. [passage omitted]

1. Khartoum State will be divided into seven provinces: Omdurman Province, Umm Badda Province, Karary Province, Khartoum Province, Jabal Awliya' Province, Khartoum Bahry Province, and East Nile Province;

2. In Jonglei State the following provinces will be created: (Samm al-Zaraf) Province with Ayod as its capital, Akobo Province with Waat as its capital, and Bor Province with Bor as its capital;

3. In Southern Kordofan State the following provinces will be created: Abu-Jubayhah Province with Abu-Jubayhah as its capital, Talodi Province with Taloda as its capital;

4. In Eastern Equatoria State the following province will be created: (Magawi) Province with Mageri as the capital;

5. In Qadarif State, (Fashaga) Province will be created with Wad al-[word indistinct] as its capital;

6. In Western Kordofan State the following province will be created: Ghubaysh Province with Ghubaysh as the capital;

7. In Kassala State the following two provinces will be created: (al-Gash) Province with Aroma as the capital [words indistinct];

8. In River Nile State the following province will be created: Abu-Hamad Province with Abu-Hamad as its capital.

The following are hereby appointed state governors: Staff Colonel (retd) al-Jayly Ahmad al-Sharif, governor of Sinnar State; Dr. al-Hajj Adam Yusuf, governor of Northern State; Staff Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn Sulayman, governor of Western Darfur State; Brig. (retd) 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, governor of River Nile State; Dr. Abdullah Muhammad Sid Ahmad, governor of White Nile State; Michael Mayil Chuol, governor of al-Wahdah state. [passage omitted]

The following are hereby appointed federal state ministers:

Upper Nile State: Muhammad Shauon Deng, minister of education; Alawi 'Abd-al-Faraj, minister of social and cultural affairs; Amos Ajok Gwang, minister of health; John Gela, minister of engineering affairs; and Muhammad Ali al-Amin, minister of finance and economic development.

Red Sea State: (Hasay 'Awli Ali), minister of education and deputy governor; Col. Muhammad Ali Abdullah, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Mubarak Ibrahim Ahmad, minister of health.

Bahr al-Jabal State: Ahmad Yunis Loro, minister of education; Jum'ah Sa'id Warju, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Christopher Andre Gore, minister of health.

Buhayrat State: Khamis 'Abd-al-Latif Chuol, minister of education; Dr. Faisal Hasan Ibrahim, minister of social and cultural affairs and deputy governor; (Santino Deng Magirok), minister of health; Police Major 'Uthman Bol Teran, minister of finance and economic development; and Barnabas Mabior Mangar, minister of agriculture and livestock.

Jazira State: Ali al-Hadab Ali, minister of social and cultural affairs; Mrs. Layla Ahmad Sa'id, minister of education; and Dr. Husayn al-'Ubayd, minister of health.

Southern Darfur State: Hasan Abdullah 'Abd al-Hayy, minister of social and cultural affairs and deputy governor; 'Abd-al-Rahman Idris, minister of education;

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Mirghani Mansur Badawi, minister of engineering affairs; Joseph Bol Chan, minister of health; and Ibrahim Muhammad Baw al-Madina, minister of agriculture and livestock.

Jonglei State: (Rashu Jakin Kadok), minister of education; Jalal al-Din Jok Gar, minister of social and cultural affairs; Police Col. David Akwer Akoy, minister of health; James Sigin Bang, minister of agriculture and livestock; Jacob Gwang Wan, minister of peace and rehabilitation; and Phillip Falet Gadin, political adviser.

Southern Kordofan State: Kamil Hafid al-Amin, minister of education; Jalal al-Din al-Murad, minister of social and cultural affairs; Yusuf Sulayman Sa'id Sakana, minister of agriculture and livestock; and Hammad Ali Ahmad, minister of health.

Khartoum State: Muhammad Sharif Fadl, minister of education; Muhammad al-Shaykh Madani, minister of social and cultural affairs; Dr. Abdullah Sid Ahmad, minister of health; and Muhammad al-Hasan [name indistinct], minister of agriculture and livestock.

Sinnar State: (Daldum al-Khitam Ashgar), minister of education; Hasab al-Rasul Muhammad Sulayman, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Muhammad Mandur al-Mahdi, minister of health.

Eastern Equatoria State: Morris Marcio Kaunda, minister of finance and economic development; (Abdullah Bert Angar), minister of education; Nasr Ruman Rayhan, minister of social and cultural affairs; 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad Abu-Dawn, minister of engineering affairs; (Helen Olar Atru), minister of health; and John Aromu Atronk, minister of peace and rehabilitation.

Northern Bahr al-Ghazal State: Malwal Akin Malwal, minister of education; (Bak Lwal Bol), minister of health; Dr. Makin Muhammad Makin, minister of social and cultural affairs and deputy governor; Edward Lwal Deng, minister of peace and rehabilitation.

Northern Darfur State: Ibrahim Yahya 'Abd-al-rahman, minister of education; Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, minister of health; 'Umar Muhammad Bashir, minister of social and cultural affairs; Dr. Sa'id 'Uthman al-Shaykh, minister of finance and economic development; Kamal al- Din 'Abd-al-Mulla Salih, minister of education and deputy governor; Dr. Adam Ali, minister of health; Mu'tasim Mirghani Husayn Zaki al- Din, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Khayr al-Jidayl Arbab al-Nur, minister of agriculture and livestock.

Northern State: Mirghani al-Muzammil al-Fakih, minister of education and deputy governor; (Achwel Nagor Majok), minister of health; Muhammad Bashir 'Abd al-Hadi, minister of social and cultural affairs; Ahmad Abdullah Muhammad Khayr, minister of finance and economic development; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khidr, minister of agriculture and livestock; and Yusuf Ibrahim Zumrawi, minister of engineering affairs.

Qadarif State: Hamid Toren, minister of education; Augustine Earnst Oremu, minister of health; and Muhammad Fadl Muhammad, minister of social and cultural affairs.

Western Kordofan State: Abdullah Ibrahim Fakih, minister of social and cultural affairs and deputy governor; (Bulbul Manj Gulwak), minister of health; Sulayman Hamid, minister of education; Muhammad al-Shaykh al-Tayyib, minister of finance and economic development; and Muhammad Adam Habwak, minister of engineering affairs.

Western Equatoria State: (James Nimaya Niyandi), minister of education; Dr. Qasim Barnabas Kasenga, minister of health; Muhyi al-Din Hasan Isma'il, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Abbas Samson Jambu, minister of finance and economic development.

Western Bahr al-Ghazal State: Awad Riziq Sa'ad, minister of education; Dr. Michael Meli Husayn, minister of health; Dr. Sa'id Abdullah Sa'id, minister of social and cultural affairs; Muhammad Abdullah Sulayman, Minister of finance and economic development; and Ewal Long'ar Akol, minister of peace and rehabilitation and deputy governor.

Western Darfur State: Mustafa Muhammad Ali, minister of education and deputy governor; Isa Bushra Muhammad, minister of health; Ahmad Muhamud 'Uthman Mansur, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Engineer Idam Abubakr Isma'il, minister of engineering affairs.

Kassala State: Kamil Mustafa 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of education; Dr. al-Hasan Hasan al-Ansari, minister of health; Muhammid al-Khatim Abdullah al-Khatim, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan, minister of finance and economic development.

River Nile State: Hasan 'Uthman Maulid, minister of education and deputy governor; (Sabina Jambu), minister of health; Yahya 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Ahmad, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Ahmad al-Bashir Abdullah, minister of engineering affairs.

White Nile State: Dr. Mahy Abdullah al-'Isayly, minister of health; al-Fadil Hajj Sulayman al-Safi, minister of education; and Dr. Sa'id Muhammad Sulayman, minister of agriculture and livestock.

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Blue Nile State: Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hafidh, minister of education and deputy governor; Musa Taha al-Shayib, minister of health; Ahmad Muhammad Tajir, minister of social and cultural affairs; and Mahmud Salih Mahjub, minister of engineering affairs.

Warab State: Salah al-Din Nyang, minister of education; (Mabior Lyabwel Ewang), minister of health; 'Abd-al-Nasir Mawer Ngor, minister of social and cultural affairs; Mayom Kwach Malek, minister of agriculture and livestock; Brig. Henry Akuon, minister of social and cultural affairs and deputy governor; Makwach Deng Akwach, minister of health; Muhammad al-Hasan Geder Mari, minister of education; Ramadhan Mabior Kulang, minister of finance and economic development; (Manjoy Dak), minister of agriculture and livestock; and (George Ron), minister of engineering affairs. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Staff Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Amir on Israel, Iran, Iraq, Domestic Issues

MM3005130895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Amir of Kuwait in Paris after London: 'Haste' Is Useless; We Would Be the Last To Normalize Relations with Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has stated in London that Kuwait would be the last Arab country to normalize relations with Israel. He criticized the "haste" toward normalization.

The amir said that there are no contacts of any kind between Kuwait and Israel and that his government is adamant that there should be peace not capitulation and that Israel should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The amir was answering questions from a small group of Arab journalists at Buckingham Palace before his departure for France yesterday.

Shaykh Jabir said that relations between Kuwait and Iraq cannot be restored as long as Saddam Husayn's regime remains in Baghdad, but he added that his country does not interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and leaves the task of changing things to the Iraqi people.

He expressed satisfaction with the Iraqi opposition's acceptance of the demarcation of the international borders between Iraq and Kuwait. He said that there is opposition in northern and southern Iraq, adding that there are other opposition factions in Arab and Western capitals, but they have no influence in Baghdad.

The amir of Kuwait confirmed that his country's relations with Iran are good. He did not express much enthusiasm for the U.S. policy of dual containment of Iraq and Iran. He said that it is necessary to differentiate between the position of Iran and the position of Iraq and not to isolate the former. The amir admitted at the same time that it is difficult to deal with the regime in Tehran because of the multiple sources of decisionmaking, so much so that it sometimes appears as if there is more than one government.

Shaykh Jabir said that the British Government promised to maintain the pressure on the Iraqi regime to make it comply with all UN resolutions. He called for the return of all Kuwaiti POW's and missing persons. He said that the British opposition leaders who called on him at Buckingham Palace expressed a position similar to that of the government.

The amir stressed that the [Gulf] Cooperation Council [GCC] is operating normally and well. He said that the Arab journalists' meeting with him coincided with the 14th anniversary of the GCC. He said that the European Union [EU], which started as a common market, is facing difficulties even though it is twice the age of the GCC. In reply to a question, he also emphasized that the Damascus Declaration is not dead and that meetings and coordination are continuing.

The amir of Kuwait left London Thursday [as published] for Paris on a similar official visit. He assured the Arab journalists that during none of these visits would there be a discussion of military or other contracts. In reply to another question, he described the criticism of some Kuwaiti parliamentarians as just political maneuvers perhaps linked to the forthcoming parliamentary elections. He played down the importance of "the confrontation" between the Kuwaiti Government and the opposition but he underscored the freedom of the press and its reporting right.

Official on Amir's Egypt Visit, Arab Reconciliation

NC2805083195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 May 95

[Telephone interview with Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry under secretary, in Kuwait, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Shahin] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Shahin, what is the general significance of the tour made by the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah?

[Al-Shahin] Undoubtedly his highness the amir's movements are well-planned and are always in concert with events, or they even anticipate them. Of course his current visit to Britain signifies Kuwait's longstanding friendship with that country since 1899. Our relationship with Britain is based on mutual respect. Our ties made much progress, particularly in the economic sphere, in the 1950's and 1960's. The relationship was also made stronger by Britain's participation in the war to liberate Kuwait. These are the factors linking Kuwait with its friends worldwide, including the United Kingdom.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Shahin, his highness the amir will visit Egypt for talks with President Husni Mubarak. In your opinion, how can this visit boost Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations?

[Al-Shahin] In view of Egypt's status and the sincere relationship between the two leaders, we can confidently state that the visit's results will strengthen the already

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close ties between the two countries and peoples. The two countries have made great strides in fulfilling the two leaders' objectives for their people.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that this visit will help revive the Damascus Declaration?

[Al-Shahin] The Damascus Declaration is doubtlessly vibrantly alive. I am constantly optimistic that the meetings held every three months by representatives of the declaration's signatories will add to its vitality. Regardless of any political analysis, the concerned countries are satisfied with the economic cooperation and coordination among the Gulf Cooperation Council members and the Damascus Declaration signatories.

[Al-Jundi] We notice, however, that the declaration has assumed a mainly economic character and that its political significance holds second place.

[Al-Shahin] This is true. It is the nature of the times, not only in the Gulf and the Arab world, but all over the world. Economic concerns are the main feature of relations between countries. When the Damascus Declaration focuses on economics, this is in line with this era's realities. If we occupy ourselves with economic reconstruction, we can use politics for a more effective service to our people's economic development.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Shahin, can you tell us very frankly and specifically, when will Arab differences be cleared up? Precisely, is there any hope of some flexibility regarding an inter-Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Shahin] I have said this several times, both officially and on a personal note. It is not a question of reconciliation, but of relations between countries. What makes these relations closer or pushes them farther apart are the positions that one party adopts versus another. When these positions are modified based on clear intentions, there will be no reason for a lack of reconciliation. Reconciliation that is carried out while the wounds are still open is a tribal method and is not appropriate in politics. Politics has no room for sentiment. It is based on safeguarding one's rights and respecting the rights of others. When we are satisfied that this condition will be met, we can move forward to normal relations. Reconciliation on weak foundations is a waste of efforts.

[Al-Jundi] Don't you believe, however, that time can make reconciliation possible and can diminish anger? I mean, several years have passed since the Gulf crisis.

[Al-Shahin] This is the crucial point. Many people think of what happened as a crisis. To us it was a catastrophe and an ordeal. This is not merely the view of the Kuwaitis who were the victims. The issue also had implications for all the Arabs, from Mauritania in the West to the farthest point of the Arab East. This is the issue. When the affair is settled on the basis of clear respect for rights, naturally normal relations will be restored. We must really solve the problem, not circumvent it and satisfy ourselves with just any sort of reconciliation.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you, Mr. al-Shahin.

[Al-Shahin] You are welcome.

Defense Minister Meets Visiting Austrian Official

LD2705162395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 May (KUNA) — General Peter Corrieri, director of armament and supply at the Austrian Defense Ministry, today met here Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah. A statement by the Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Army said that during the meeting bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, particularly in the military fields, were discussed. The statement added that Gen. Corrieri expressed his country's readiness to participate in the rebuilding and development of the Kuwaiti Army. The statement pointed out that Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Austrian official for this kind gesture and wished that military cooperation will continue between the Kuwaiti and Austrian Defense Ministries. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister on Syrian-Israeli Accord, Boycott Issue

NC2605190895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 95

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Mu'tazz al-Damardash in the MBC studio in London on 26 May — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bin-'Alawi] Naturally we are happy because of the recent announcement on the relaxation of the Syrian-Israeli track. We notice that our brothers in Syria also have welcomed what has been achieved by the U.S. mediator and sponsor of peace. However, we are cautious. Experience on other tracks with Israel has shown a kind of recurrent hesitation by Israel.

[Al-Damardash] With regard to the economic boycott of Israel, we realize that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries might come under pressure to end this boycott. Do you think that such pressures will be answered?

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[Bin-'Alawi] As I told you before, everyone knows that the boycott is a tough issue, linked to the Arab League. This is known to Israel and others. The GCC has done what it should do within the context of its various world relations and that is the end of the issue at this point.

Arabs are still holding negotiations on various tracks and we in the Sultanate of Oman certainly support all these tracks. Any move we make is designed to be in the interest and service of these tracks. Also, we can exercise counterpressures to back these tracks and take them to the desired end, God willing.

Qatar

Ministry Denounces Killing of Bosnian Official

JN2905142195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 29 May (WAKH) — An official Qatari Foreign Ministry source has regretted and denounced the Serbian missile attack that led to the martyrdom of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic and the government delegation that was accompanying him when his helicopter was shot down over Bihac.

In a statement to the Qatari News Agency, the source said the State of Qatar condemns this brutal action and all the terrorist acts the Bosnian Serbs have carried out against innocent civilians in Tuzla, the detention of UN peacekeeping forces, and their use as human shields.

The source urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility and put an end to the blatant Serb violations of all humanitarian principles and UN resolutions, and stressed the importance of safeguarding the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its territorial integrity, and demanded that the arms embargo imposed on it be lifted to enable it defend its unity and sovereignty.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Confers With 'Arafat on Financing

JN3005183795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jeddah this afternoon for talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the progress of negotiations with Israel.

President 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation were received by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. President 'Arafat and King Fahd are expected to discuss financing the deployment of Palestinian troops on the West Bank after the withdrawal of Israeli forces from it in early July.

'Arafat on Talks With Mubarak, Peres

JN3105063895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in Jeddah yesterday. The talks dealt with the situation in the Palestinian National Authority area. President 'Arafat briefed the Saudi monarch on the results of his talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his talks in Morocco with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Arafat is scheduled to head for Tunis today to chair the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee to be held tomorrow, Thursday.

Croatia's Granic Meets al-Faysal on Developments

LD2705142895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1344 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 May (SPA) — Today His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, received His Excellency Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Croatia, at his office in Riyadh.

The two sides examined the current developments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and ways to develop bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Croatia. [passage omitted]

The Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister arrived in Riyadh earlier today. [passage omitted]

Applauds Saudi Efforts

LD2905195495 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 29, SPA — Croatian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Mate Granic has applauded the great efforts exerted by the Saudi Government to support the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia to restore their legitimate rights and defend their lands against Serb aggressors.

In a statement to the press published today, he pointed out that his talks with Saudi officials focused on the situation in Bosnia and the aggression waged by Bosnian Serbs on the Muslim people therein, as well as economic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Croatia.

He stressed that his country supports the Bosnian Government and tries to improve relations with it.

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Yemen

'Arafat Arrives for Talks With President

JN3105144795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Palestinian Authority, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country during which he will meet with members of the Yemeni political leadership to discuss the militant cooperation relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and bilateral issues of joint interest.

He was received by 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, deputy prime minister; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry; a number of Council of Ministers members; a number of civilian and military officials; and staff members of the Embassy of the state of Palestine in Sanaa.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Palestinian president expressed pleasure at visiting his second country Yemen at a time when our Yemeni people and the Arab and Islamic nations celebrate the new Hegira year.

He said he will meet with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, and ranking state officials to discuss the relations of militant cooperation between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Brother 'Arafat added that he will brief the brother president on all developments of the Palestine question, foremost of which are the developments related to holy Jerusalem in light of the current talks between the Palestinian leadership and the government of the Israeli entity, as well as the peace steps on the Palestinian track in particular, and the Arab tracks in general.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat added that he wants to consult with the Yemeni political leadership on the current peace negotiations which are aimed at realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region.

'Subversive Elements' Believed Behind Explosions

JN3105141795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mysterious fire that broke out at the ammunition depot in Jabal Hadid in the heart of the city of Aden on Saturday [27 May], which triggered explosions that shook the entire city, has prompted the Yemeni authorities to dismantle all camps in the city after emptying them of the arms stockpiled there in order to render Aden a free zone and consequently reinforce the country's economic interests and prevent a repeat of what happened at the Jabal Hadid depot on Saturday in a way that could jeopardize the country's security and stability. It is to be recalled that the security authorities have not thus far announced the outcome of the investigations into the incident. It remains to be said, however, that some observers here believe that subversive elements seeking to undermine the situation in Aden in particular, and throughout Yemen in general, are behind the explosions. Moreover, the dismantling of the military barracks and arms depots in Aden could be part of a plan to streamline the positioning of camps that are near Yemeni cities.

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'Technical Talks' With Ekeus Delegation Begin

JN3005165295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1633 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — A round of technical talks began here today between Iraqi specialists and the delegation accompanying Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special commission affiliated with the UN Security Council.

The talks seek to finalize some of the technical aspects pertaining to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

It is to be recalled that the delegation accompanying Rolf Ekeus is comprised of 10 specialists in various fields, including Tim Treven, official spokesman for the special commission.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Delegation

JN3005184395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today met with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi.

Sources: Officials Told Not To Cooperate

NC3005153895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to diplomatic sources in Baghdad, Foreign Ministry officials in Saddam Husayn's regime and employees of the Military Industrialization Organization have reported that the Iraqi ruling authorities have issued stringent instructions preventing them from answering questions from Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, about the country's chemical weapons program.

In press statements published today, the diplomatic sources said that Baghdad's ruling regime threatened, in a statement made by Taha al-Jazrawi yesterday, that it will stop cooperating with the UN Security Council's Special Commission unless the UN sanctions— caused by Saddam Husayn himself — are lifted.

Ekeus, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday, hopes to obtain clarifications about the regime's germ warfare capability, a program that is the focus of unanswered questions. Ekeus added that his talks with the regime's officials will help him draw up a report that he will submit to the Security Council on 19 June.

Ekeus pointed out that certain issues related to biological weapons remain unresolved.

Travelers, Diplomats Confirm Riots in al-Ramadi

NC3005150095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Travelers from Iraq to Amman have confirmed that al-Ramadi was the scene of clashes between Saddam's forces and citizens on 17 May after the ruling authorities executed a senior officer who is a native of the city.

The travelers said that the clashes killed many victims and wounded hundreds of others.

These eyewitness accounts confirm statements made by Arab diplomats in Baghdad that violent demonstrations erupted in al-Anbar Governorate in which many were killed.

Opposition Criticizes Regime's 'Destructive' Purges

NC2805194695 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 95

[From the "Armed Forces Talk" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is nothing unusual in a change of government, a reshuffle, or the replacement of some ministers for the sake of the public interest or to redress balances, if it is done in line with constitutional authority in countries that have genuine constitutions approved and instituted by the will of the people, where both the ruler and ruled are subject to the constitution's authority.

But what is happening in Baghdad is far from all this. There is no constitution that defines criminal Saddam's authority. There is no public interest that he wants to protect or uphold. No state official has any opinion, regardless of his prominence, qualifications, and importance. Saddam's laws and constitution do not protect such an official, whose only recourse is to attach himself to one of the branches of Saddam's malignant tree or to be one of the branches.

Thus, the chain of ministerial and government changes continues, and with regularity one sees officials or commanders falling and being reviled as soon as the regime gets rid of them with a stroke of a pen. They immediately are blamed for the siege, for the lack of security, for the deaths of children, for the defeat in the Mother of Battles, or for the downfall of [words indistinct] in the remotest part of Iraq. Even those closest to Saddam have not escaped these accusations, and those remaining will

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not escape this inevitable downfall. Saddam's destructive cycle of change continues, having already crushed Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan and then Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan. It appears that the al-Hasan family's book is being closed now that its role has ended, just as the role of Tariq 'Aziz ended. He is now afraid for his life.

After all this, who among you commanders in our brave Armed Forces and officials in the party and the state can be sure that he will not lose his life and his position, for which Saddam has no regard? Your good conduct and long service to the treacherous master will avail you nothing. We do not want an answer; we want your salvation. Enough of the humiliation for our people and for you.

Minister Urges Turkey To Make 'Economic Deals'

JN3105101195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0905 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has urged Turkey to utilize Clause 50 of the UN Charter which allows states harmed by the imposition of an embargo on another state to make economic deals with that country under the supervision of the United Nations.

The Iraqi minister's statement came in an exclusive interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Wednesday, published on the anniversary of the oil nationalization decision.

The minister said that Jordan is utilizing Clause 50 of the Charter under United Nations supervision and that Turkey should follow suit.

He explained that despite the fact that draining the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline of the oil that has been in it since August 1990 and pumping new oil is a limited, technical operation, certain well known parties hampered the operation by setting unacceptable political conditions.

Seminar on Iran Supports Improved Relations

JN3105091395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA) — Participants in a seminar organized by the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH's International Studies Center have called for establishing positive relations between Iran and Iraq and the region's countries. They said that Iran should depart from the short-term perspective in assessing its relations with Iraq and other Arabs, and that it should adopt an approach marked with frankness and seriousness in dealing with Iraq in order to stand up to common challenges.

Dr. Hasib al-'Ubaydi, professor of international relations at the Faculty of Political Science in the University of Baghdad, said that Iran's real dilemma at this time is that it seeks to reinstate Iranian military power as an effective tool in its foreign policy after this option proved to be a failure during the Iranian war against Iraq.

He noted that Iran is trying to make use of certain regional and international conditions, especially in the aftermath of the downfall of the former Soviet Union and the thirty-nation aggression against Iraq.

Zafir Nazim Salman, lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science in the University of Baghdad, said during the seminar, the details of which were published today by the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, that the main option for Iran at this stage is to establish good and positive relations with Iraq.

Salah al-Mukhtar, head of the AL-JUMHURIYAH International Studies Center, described the policy of dual containment as unrealistic because it is based on a concept that Iran can be "reformed," but that Iraq cannot be changed. Moreover, he added, there is no oil problem between Iran and the United States because Iran, unlike Iraq, is not a future oil power.

Participating in the seminar, which was headlined "Iran Between the Policy of Proxy and the Concept of Dual Containment," were a number of ambassadors and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Baghdad.

Sudanese Second Vice President Pays Official Visit

Meets Ramadan, Renews Support

JN3005190995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1830 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has commended the genuine pan-Arab stands the Sudanese leadership has taken in support of Iraq in the course of its efforts to defend its sovereignty and confront the aggression states that sought to undermine the Arab individual's dignity.

During a visit today to the place of residence of Major General George Kongor, Sudanese second vice president, and his delegation, the vice president underlined the need to expand cooperation between Iraq and Sudan, because this cooperation will strengthen the two fraternal states and the Arab nation and foster their efforts to stand up to the forces of suspicious plotting, not to mention the fact that such cooperation will promote the nation's struggle for freedom, construction, and progress.

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The vice president explained that the U.S. hostility toward Iraq and the Arab nations is obvious, and that the false U.S. slogans no longer deceive the Arab or world public. The implications of this plotting have been unveiled by the anti-Iraqi aggression and conspiracies, he added.

For his part, the Sudanese official renewed his country's support for Iraq in its efforts to face the forces of evil and aggression.

The Sudanese second vice president arrived in Baghdad this evening on a week-long visit to Iraq at the head of a delegation that includes several Sudanese ministers and officials.

Urges End to 'Criminal Sanctions'

JN3005195095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1900 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Major General George Kongor, Sudanese second vice president, has urged the world states, peace-loving forces, and human rights organizations to support Iraq and its steadfast people in order to end their suffering, which is perpetuated by the criminal sanctions.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the Sudanese official reiterated the rejection of Sudan — leadership and people — of Resolution 986, which undermines Iraq's territorial integrity and security. He indicated that the UN Security Council must implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments to the world body.

The Sudanese official renewed his country's stand, which supports Iraq's efforts to confront the forces of evil and aggression seeking to undermine its sovereignty and unity. He also commended the jihad and heroic steadfastness of Iraq — leadership and people — as manifested in its defiance of injustice, tyranny, and the criminal sanctions.

French Economic Delegation Meets Leading Officials

Received by Vice President Ramadan

JN3005121695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1050 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq does not have any humanitarian characteristics neither in the way it is imposed nor in its continuation because it is harming the lives of millions of Iraqi people.

During his meeting today with Roland Perriere, president of the French-Iraqi Society for Economic Cooperation and his accompanying delegation, Ramadan said that Iraq's stand and policy are clear in terms of the legal and frank definition of Security Council resolutions. He added that Iraq will not accept any addition or conditions that contradict logic and justice. He stressed that these resolutions are purely U.S.-made to influence the Security Council and cancel its international legitimacy for which this council has been established.

He noted the importance of reinforcing cooperation between Iraq and France. He said that a comprehensive discussion of current and future Iraqi-French relations should not be delayed so that relations will be restored to normal in terms of development and prosperity.

For his part, Roland Perriere said that world and French public opinion is aware of the methods of deception and false propaganda promoted by Western media against Iraq which harmed the march of Iraq and liberated nations. He said that the near future will witness a big development in Iraqi-French relations.

He praised the cultural and construction awakening Iraq is witnessing in all fields. He said that the world admires and appreciates the great development Iraq has achieved.

Meets Official on Future Support

JN3105100595 Baghdad INA in English
0935 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 31, (INA) — Chairman of the Iraqi-French Society for Economic Cooperation Roland Perriere has said that French officials are knowing well that future of France is to strengthen its relations with Iraq in all spheres.

During a meeting with chairman of Iraq Friendship, Peace and Solidarity Organization Salah al-Mukhtar, Mr Perriere made it clear that the French companies are building pressures on the government so as to resume [word indistinct] and trade ties.

Mr Perriere added that "we are seeking for helping the people of Iraq with a view to mitigating their sufferings, stressing that so many circles in France are working in this direction despite lies released daily by some media organs to mislead the French public opinion and tarnish Iraq image".

For his part, Mr al-Mukhtar praised the sincere efforts being exerted by the society towards the people of Iraq, saying that friends of Iraq in France will play prominent role in the period to come to influence the French public opinion after all had realised that Iraq had satisfied all its reciprocal commitments under the Security Council resolutions.

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He also talked about role that could be played by France together with Russia and China in the Security Council, especially that France is convinced in the legal interpretation of the Council resolutions for the lifting of the oppressive embargo.

Mr al-Mukhtar emphasised that suspension of the Iraqi-French relations had largely affected the joint interests in all fields.

The meeting was attended by chairman of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society Jeal Munier.

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Peres: Talks To End If Syria Rejects U.S. Formula

TA3005175995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the Syrians reject the U.S. compromise formula concerning the security arrangements between Israel and Syria, that will be the end of the negotiations between the two countries, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a briefing to foreign ambassadors at the United Nations. He went on to say that Israel is negotiating four issues with Syria: the withdrawal line, the security arrangements, the nature of the peace, and the stages for the implementation of the agreement. He noted that a referendum on the agreement with Syria will be held in Israel after the negotiations between the two countries are completed.

'Sources' Concerned Syria To Demand Discussing Nuclear Issue

TA3105101695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 May 95 p 6

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Tal Shahaf, and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senior Israeli political sources yesterday expressed the concern that in the framework of the security talks slated to be opened next month Syria will demand to discuss, among other things, Israel's nuclear capability.

The sources said that Syria has already informed the United States that Israel's nuclear superiority causes great concern in Damascus and is the basic reason behind its demand for total equality in the security arrangements. Damascus believes that Israel's nuclear capability is a critical element in the array of considerations which will determine the security arrangements between the two countries.

Ibrahim Hamidi, an AL-HAYAH commentator who is considered to have good sources in Syria, yesterday wrote that Syria has no intention of repeating Egypt's mistake by allowing for the development of bilateral trade and economic relations without dealing with the nuclear issue first. The Israeli sources assess that Syria knows Israel will refuse to discuss its nuclear capability, but maintains that concessions will have to be made, even if only declarative in nature.

In anticipation of the upcoming negotiations, a senior Foreign Ministry source said that Israel must get used to the Syrians' negotiating method, according to which a concession made by the other side only proves the fact that the Syrian position was correct to begin with. Thus Israeli statements regarding a return to the international border or acknowledging that the Golan Heights belong to Syria are not regarded by Syria as Israeli concessions, but rather as a recognition that the arguments made by Syria over the years are correct. [passage omitted]

Syrian Demand for Withdrawal to Armistice Lines Reviewed

TA2905115695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 May 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syria demands that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights to the 1949 armistice lines, a Damascus Radio commentator asserted in a program broadcast a few days ago. The commentator, who is regarded as "the regime's voice," said that "Israel must withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines, which means a withdrawal to the armistice lines."

The research department of a government institution has sent a report to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressing the importance of the broadcast and noting that this is the first time that Syria has referred to the armistice line as the boundary of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. To date, Israeli officials thought that the Syrians were demanding a withdrawal to the more eastern boundary on which the armies were deployed on the eve of the Six-Day War.

The government institution's report differentiates between the three lines which have marked the border between Israel and Syria:

— The international border set in 1923 by the mandate powers, Britain and France.

— The armistice line set in an agreement between Syria and Israel in 1949, after the War of Independence. This line for the most part overlaps the international border, except for areas defined as demilitarized zones over whose sovereignty the countries remained in dispute, such as the Banias waterfall, Hammat Gader (al-Hama), Lake Tiberias' shore, and Kibbutz Gadot. According to UN calculations, the demilitarized zones totaled 65,435 dunams. All of them were located west of the international border, within Israel's boundaries under the British mandate.

— The actual 4 June 1967 border, from which the Six-Day War started. This border differed from the international and armistice borders and ran between the two. It was set after both sides occupied part of the demilitarized zones west of the international border. According to the calculations of the geographer, Prof. Moshe Brawer, the Syrians controlled approximately 18 square kilometers. [passage omitted]

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Netanyahu on Syria, Jerusalem Issue, Levi Rivalry

TA2705174495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 May 95

[Interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Harley Braidman; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Netanyahu] I think for the same goods that al-Asad is selling us over and over again, the government is paying a higher and higher price each time. This time, the government has already declared, as Mr. Peres did, that we have to give up all of the Golan. Mr. Rabin has already relaxed one of the cardinal principles of security that he himself stated in the Knesset; namely, that we will not insist on the reduction of the standing army of Syria. So they get off the Golan. They are talking about demilitarization in the Galilee, and they are already relinquishing the demands of the reduction of Syrian forces. In short, this is not a discussion about security arrangements; it is a way to remove Israel from the Golan and create insecurity.

[Braidman] Have you, as Prime Minister Rabin has claimed, conveyed any messages to the Syrians promising them a better deal under a Likud government?

[Netanyahu] Nonsense. I think that if the Syrian Government is playing on Mr. Rabin's nerves, and he wants to believe this nonsense, it is, of course, up to him, but I do not think anyone in Damascus has any serious illusions about the Likud position. They know very well that the Likud will not give them the Golan, and they are playing with Mr. Rabin. I must say they are playing very well with Mr. Rabin.

[Braidman] But how does the Likud envisage peace with Syria without giving up any part of the Golan?

[Netanyahu] If peace means a peace treaty, that is, a piece of paper for which we are supposed to give up the Golan and our defenses, our security, as Mr. Rabin said on the eve of the elections, then there is no deal. We want genuine security, and an arrangement, a treaty, without security is meaningless. It will produce neither security nor peace. If the deal, in short, is a piece of paper for the Golan, no deal.

[Braidman] Mr. Netanyahu, why did you decide to oppose the government on the Jerusalem land issue in the Knesset this week?

[Netanyahu] Because we are opposed to the government on the Jerusalem land issue. The government agreed to unfreeze some peanuts, a morsel of land, but they then proceeded with the same breath to say that all of Jerusalem would be frozen, that is, that we could no longer build anywhere in Jerusalem by expropriations, which is a direct infringement of our sovereignty and our rights in Jerusalem. I imagine that if we said the same thing in Ra'ananna or Tel Aviv it means we are no longer masters of those cities. This is what we were opposed to from our side. The Arabs, of course, came at it from their side. They were opposed even to the little morsel. We asked Mr. Rabin to tilt toward our direction, that is, build. The Arabs demanded: Don't build, freeze everything, and Mr. Rabin froze everything. He capitulated to them.

[Braidman] You have denied a claim from 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah that you offered him a cabinet post under a Likud-led government. Are you saying he is lying?

[Netanyahu] I think he has got serious fantasies, as his colleague, who was present in a 20-second confrontation or meeting on the steps of the Knesset said, it was a joke. It is indeed a joke. [passage omitted]

[Braidman] Let me ask you just one question on the internal conflict in the Likud. Do you see any way of reconciliation with David Levi, who you have again shunned this week?

[Netanyahu] Yes I do. If Mr. Levi would genuinely want to help us put the Likud house in order, if he would seize the very generous offers that I have made, and I think a very thoughtful and innovative program suggested by the Likud Secretariat for choosing the slate of candidates, I do not think there should be any problem. I think this is the time when all of the members of the Likud should put aside their personal differences, their personal ambitions, their personal frustrations, and join together to try to save the country; save it with a good government that would give the country the security that it so desperately needs.

Analyst Claims Syrian Chemical Arsenal 'Greatest'

TA2605140195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 95 p A3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Syria has the greatest military might in the Arab world in terms of producing and possessing chemical weapons, but it is trying to play this down. This was stated in a research paper published today by Dr. Dani Shoham, a researcher at Bar Ilan University's Begin-al-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, who specializes in chemical warfare in the Middle East.

According to the research paper, Syria currently produces hundreds metric tons of chemical weapons annually, and its arms arsenal holds thousands of aerial

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bombs filled with mainly Serine gas and another lethal gas known as VX [acronym printed in English]. "Now, that Iraq's chemical capability has been significantly neutralized, Syria is considered the Arab state with the most advanced and expanded chemical arms plan," Dr. Shoham writes in his research, "although the (Syrian) media misleadingly give it very little coverage."

The researcher notes that, in addition to its production capability, Syria has means of attack with which it can use the chemical weapons: Sukhoy-22, Sukhoy-24, and MiG-23 assault jets that can carry chemical bombs, and between 100 to 200 chemical warheads for its Scud-B missiles. Syria has recently begun producing sophisticated long-range Scud-C missiles that can carry conventional or chemical warheads. According to the research, it is possible that Syria has also started producing M-9 missiles in cooperation with Iran, North Korea, and China. The chemical warheads are produced in Syria with the assistance of North Korean and West European technicians and engineers.

The research says that Syria's chemical buildup mainly depends on self-production of weapons. On the qualitative level, Syria focuses on advanced chemical substances which mainly attack the nervous system. In this framework, Syria has been gradually and constantly improving the quality of its chemical defusing means. Syria has also been gradually improving its launching systems, moving from aerial bombs to surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 300 km, and later to 500 km and 1,000 km — which means that any point in Israeli territory can be hit from anywhere in Syria.

The Syrian chemical buildup is done very secretly. Maximum effort is being made to hide the installations and the activity in them in, among other things, underground facilities which make their detection or destruction very difficult. Syria has also established very tight cooperation with Iran on this issue.

At the same time, Dr. Shoham believes that Syria is not able to attain full independence of foreign suppliers and aid, at least for now. The research estimates that Syria might use the chemical weapons it possesses against Israel in the case of a military confrontation between the two countries. The chances of this happening will increase the more distressed Syria feels while on the defensive. At the same time, the Syrians might use chemical weapons in an offensive on the Golan Heights.

Shoham claims that the Syrians believe their chemical weapons are dreadful military means that could inflict heavy damage on Israel. Operating chemical warheads is conceived by the Syrians as having the potential to deliver a crushing psychological blow to the Israeli population even if Israelis actively use gas masks and shelters.

Dr. Shoham notes that a chemical warhead carrying some 500 kg of nerve gas could kill hundreds, or perhaps thousands of people. "It would not be unrealistic to estimate that two or three warheads falling on a city like Tel Aviv could inflict more casualties on Israel than it suffered in all the wars and terror attacks it ever came under since the state was first founded," Dr. Shoham writes.

Rabin: Referendum To Precede 'Any Withdrawal Whatsoever'

TA2905125095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that without prior agreement with the Syrians on the four components of a peace accord — the peace border; the duration of the withdrawal; normalization; and security arrangements — no peace treaty can be drafted and Israel will not withdraw even one inch on the Golan Heights. Therefore, Yitzhaq Rabin said, the opposition is making a lot of fuss about nothing.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that at a meeting of the Labor Knesset faction, Rabin said that it is only natural for those who seek to foil any hope of peace with Syria to raise such a hue and cry. I differentiate between politicians and the residents of the Golan Heights, Rabin stressed. I understand the distress of the Golan Heights residents, the prime minister added; however, no draft treaty will be signed without prior agreement on the four components of peace. Therefore, Rabin concluded, all the excitement is premature.

The prime minister pointed out that while in the past he had talked about holding a national referendum prior to any significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights, today his intention is to conduct a referendum before carrying out any withdrawal whatsoever. Rabin added that if there is no time to hold a national referendum, the peace agreement with Syria, if and when such an accord was reached, will head the agenda of the 1996 elections.

As for the reports about contacts between official Israeli representatives and President al-Asad's nephew, the prime minister said that he knows nothing about this and finds it hard to believe that such talks took place.

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Minister Initiates Drafting of Referendum Bill

TA3005055695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Justice has begun drawing up the law for the referendum on withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is on the instructions of Justice Minister Liba'i. The law will not deal with the substance of the questions which will be put to the nation. It will specify who will be entitled to take part in the referendum and how it will be conducted. The minister has asked his staff to complete the draft within a few months. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Liba'i is acting on his own initiative, not on instructions from the prime minister.

MK's Submit Bills on Golan Withdrawal Referendum

TA3005112195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Labor's Hagay Merom today submitted a bill to the Knesset proposing that a national referendum be held before a peace deal is signed with Syria. At the center of Merom's legislation is the question to be put to Israeli voters. He suggests presenting the public with the draft peace treaty and asking for a simple yes or no response to the question: Are you in favor of the agreement? [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 30 May adds: "Next week the Knesset is slated to hold a preliminary discussion of a referendum bill worked out by Knesset Members [MK's] David Magen and Avi Yehezqel. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the two propose to hold a referendum on the Golan Heights as soon as next January. They also propose that five judges appointed by the president of the Supreme Court formulate the question to be submitted in the referendum."]

Likud's Landau: Orders To Evacuate Golan 'Illegitimate'

TA2805085195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau, who heads the Likud bureau, said that were he a soldier he would disobey any orders to evacuate a settlement on the Golan Heights prior to the 1996 elections. When asked whether he was calling on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to disobey their orders, Landau asserted that he was saying no such thing but merely clarifying that were he a soldier he would reject such orders.

Landau also told Qol Yisra'el that some orders, like those calling for the expulsion of Jews from the Golan Heights, were manifestly illegitimate.

Golan Residents: Rabin Lacks Mandate for Withdrawal

TA2605105295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 May 95 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Golan Heights Residents Committee yesterday sent a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to "beware of any promises made by the government" over a withdrawal from the region in return for a peace treaty.

"There is an obstacle to the defeatist policies of the Rabin- Darawshah government called public opinion," said committee spokesman Uri Heitner. "This will stop any withdrawal from the Golan, and al-Asad should be aware of this. We may be leading the fight against any withdrawal, but we are only the tip of the arrow.

"The vast majority of the public is opposed to the government's surrender, and they will prevent it," Heitner said. "Al-Asad should beware of any promises by Rabin to give him the Golan, because Rabin doesn't have a mandate to give such promises and the public won't approve it."

Heitner was reacting to the announcement that Israel and Syria had agreed on principles for security arrangements on the Golan, enabling the resumption of negotiations between military experts.

He charged that the only way Syria would have agreed to such talks was by receiving confirmation, via the US, that the government was willing to give it all the Golan.

"The actions of the government are tantamount to a complete capitulation, an unconditional surrender," Heitner said. "We estimated that the second part of this year would be a critical time, and we prepared accordingly," Heitner said.

Rabin Shelves Plan To Separate Nation, Territories

TA3005175495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plan to separate Israel from the territories has been postponed indefinitely and, in effect, has been shelved. The plan, first mentioned by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after the Bet Lid bombing, was discussed by a team headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal. The plan was slated to create

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a physical separation between the territories and Israel. Our military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that the prime minister accepted the chief of staff's position whereby there is no sense in effecting the separation before the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories has been completed. Consequently, it was decided to shelve the plan for the time being.

Aloni on Palestinian Capital, U.S. Embassy

TA3105035995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 95

[Interview with Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni by correspondent Yaron London at Aloni's Tel Aviv residence on 25 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [London] This time, it was very unlike you, that you did not draw conclusions about the education the Israeli right wing gives its supporters. You did not link Jacques Avital [who punched her in the stomach at a New York gathering this week] with the Israeli right wing or orthodoxy. You said it was an isolated incident.

[Aloni] That is because something much more serious is taking place among U.S. Jewry. I would like a deep and serious debate to take place about U.S. Jewry's links with us. They are no longer living from one pogrom to another, they are safe, and we do not have to fight wars all the time. They understand that. In other words, there are efforts to create a new link between us and them, to raise the issues they tend to call the Jewish values [last three words in English]. What are the Jewish values, and how do those values link us and them?

[London] Are you attacking AIPAC [America Israel Public Affairs Committee]?

[Aloni] I believe AIPAC is a disaster. I think it is a nuisance. It serves the domestic interests of the United States and the Jewish community and not us. The Jerusalem issue is a classic example. For 47 years we wanted the U.S. Embassy to move to Jerusalem. They want it to move now because it is good politics for U.S. senators.

[London] Is it important for you for the U.S. Embassy to be located in Jerusalem?

[Aloni] It is not important to me now. Today, I think it is a nuisance. We are in the midst of a struggle to build peace here, and Jerusalem is the last issue for discussion. It will be a very difficult problem. America's entry into the issue via the debate taking place there in fact disrupts processes that should be taking place between the two peoples here.

[London] Meretz' position on Jerusalem is not clear. The official alignment position is that the discussion on the issue will be put off, and Rabin and others say all of Jerusalem will remain under Israeli rule forever. What do you say?

[Aloni] We say that Jerusalem will remain the capital of the State of Israel and that it is our duty to take into account the religious and national needs of its inhabitants.

[London] Politically? Are you taking into account that Jerusalem can be the capital of two independent states?

[Aloni] That is one possibility, but it is not a must.

[London] But it is not impossible? It does not make you shudder to think that the capital of Arab Palestine will be located in al-Shaykh Jarrah?

[Aloni] No, in peace nothing frightens me.

[London] Some sort of condominium?

[Aloni] I am always shocked when war is a possibility; under peace it does not scare me. I am scared that 170,000 Palestinians live in Jerusalem and do not have rights. I am shocked that it is the religious, cultural, and economic center of 1.5 million Palestinians on the West Bank and that access to it is cut off, and that they live in distress, because distress leads to hatred and hatred leads to war or intifadah. Therefore, I want us to overcome those things.

[London] The political conclusion could be the division of Jerusalem, not in the sense of fences and barriers, but political powers?

[Aloni] It could mean that the Palestinian entity, which to me is a nation, and which to others is perhaps not a nation, will have political powers in East Jerusalem. There are those who still hope it will form a confederation with Jordan.

[London] I think this is the first time you say that in such an outright way.

[Aloni] The time has come to say it because we always put things off. We think that for God we can do things that are forbidden to a democratic and cultured society. A democratic state must not do what has recently been done.

[London] But as a cabinet minister you supported the actions.

[Aloni] Like what?

[London] Land expropriations.

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[Aloni] No, I did not support land seizures. I regret very much that the decisionmaking system was such that I did not know about it.

[London] Should it not be considered a major political failure when important things take place under the noses of the major partner in the Rabin government and it does not know about it?

[Aloni] You can expand that by saying that the largest party did not know either. Action was taken by three ministers. [passage omitted]

Olmert Earmarks Area for U.S., Other Embassies

TA2905114695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 May 95 p 14

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has earmarked a special area for the foreign embassies, including the U.S. Embassy, which will relocate to Jerusalem in the future. The land on which the embassies, as well as the ambassadors' residences, are scheduled to be built is located in the 'En Kerem neighborhood.

Olmert spoke about the Jerusalem site earmarked for the U.S. ambassador at a party held Saturday night [27 May] by Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general, in honor of U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk.

Olmert even suggested to Indyk to come for a tour of the site to see the area up close and choose the nicest and best view for his residence in Jerusalem.

Incidentally, the United States long ago purchased a plot of land elsewhere (near Armon Hanetziv) on which to build the embassy if and when the political levels in Washington decide on it.

Peres Gives Interview to Algerian Paper

TA2605112095 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 26 May 95

[Issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "We hope that Algeria finds a way to extract itself from its difficult straits, and to move onto the path of democracy and unity," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said on Wednesday, 24.5.95, in an interview with al-Tayib Bal'ish, chief editor of the Algerian EL WATAN newspaper. Peres added that he hopes an open and fruitful dialogue between Algeria and Israel — similar to the talks that Israel is holding with Morocco and Tunisia — will soon begin, so that the Algerian people can also make its contribution to peace in the Middle East.

Peres expressed his admiration for the courage of independent journalists who — despite numerous instances of murder, and incessant threats from the Islamic Front — have insisted on their right to freedom of speech and thought.

Regarding the peace process, Peres said that the process has already brought about real achievements for both the Palestinians and Israel. He added that not much credence should be given to the statements of those who doubt this fact. Peres repeated that Israel will make every effort to complete negotiations on the expansion of Gaza-Jericho by 1 July, but the Palestinians must also demonstrate flexibility.

Bal'ish is visiting Israel to attend a conference for Israeli and Arab journalists organized by Bet Hagefen, in conjunction with the Foreign Ministry, the Government Press Office and the Education Ministry. Also participating in the conference are Palestinian and Jordanian journalists. Two years ago, another senior reporter from EL WATAN visited Israel as a guest of the Foreign Ministry, and published a series of articles detailing his impressions of the visit.

'First' Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Visits

TA3005102295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 May 95 p 19

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gabi Bron]

[FBIS Translated Text] China will not do anything to harm the security of the State of Israel or the peace process in the region, and it understands Israel's security concerns, Xiao Liang [name as transliterated], chairman of the Chinese Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, told Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

Liang, former deputy chief of staff for intelligence, is heading the first Chinese parliamentary delegation to visit Israel.

The delegation heard from the Knesset speaker and members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee unequivocal warnings about the grave ramifications of supplying Iran with nuclear reactors.

The delegation denied that China is transferring security information purchased from Israel to states hostile to Israel or those that constitute a threat to it. The delegation listened attentively to the speaker, who said that Iran has become the enemy of world order and constitutes a danger to the entire region, especially Israel.

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Similar remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who met the delegation in the Knesset at midday.

The Chinese delegation will remain in Israel for five days.

Katyushas Land in Galilee; No Casualties

TA3105042395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee early this morning. There were no casualties but slight damage was caused to the electrical grid at one of the northern settlements. Police bomb disposal experts discovered the remnants of one of the missiles. This was reported by our correspondents Ilan Ro'e and Nati Zilberman. [passage omitted]

Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper 'Azran criticized the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] order that residents spend the night in shelters.

Explosion on Jerusalem-Hebron Road; No Casualties

TA3105073695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A powerful explosion rocked the Jerusalem-Hebron road approximately one hour ago, apparently after an explosive charge was detonated near al-'Arrub refugee camp as Israeli cars passed by. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police forces rushed to the scene.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that police bomb disposal experts are combing the area in a search for additional charges. The Jerusalem-Hebron road has been closed to traffic in both directions near al-'Arrub.

Levi Threatens To Quit Unless Primary System Changed

TA2605162795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud Knesset Member [MK] David Levi is threatening to quit the party unless its central committee overturns the proposal for a new system of choosing candidates for the Knesset. Levi charges that chairman Binyamin Netanyahu is promoting a system that will give him total control. [passage omitted]

Rejects Netanyahu Compromise on Elections

TA2805170595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has decided to convene the party's Central Committee on 5 June although agreement has still not been reached with the Levi camp. Netanyahu said that he agreed to generous compromises on all matters relating to the system of internal elections, but did not find a basic desire to reach agreement on the part of certain people.

Knesset Member David Levi rejected Netanyahu's compromise proposal for the system of internal elections. He said it indicates a moral failure by a person acting shortsightedly, who allocates responsibility for his setbacks to others. It is another expression of the lack of reasoning and political maturity, Levi told our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar.

Said Resolved To Secede

TA2905114095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A split appears likely in Israel's main opposition party — the Likud. After months of political tension and personal resentment between the chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu, and ex-Foreign Minister David Levi, the two camps seem to be parting company. Levi's brother Maxim, who is mayor of Lod and chairman of the Likud Central Committee, told a radio interviewer this morning that the decision to leave had already been taken. He talked of a total crisis and said Netanyahu and his associates did not want David Levi in the party.

MK [Knesset Member] Tzahi Hanegbi, who is close to Netanyahu, said he and the chairman had tried in vain to meet with Levi this past month. He said there was something deep and basic that prevented Levi and his people living with the fact that Binyamin Netanyahu was head of the Likud. Hanegbi warned that if the party split, it could prevent the national camp winning the next general election.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called on Levi's friends to persuade him not to quit. Shamir said the party must unite to save the country.

Names Terms for Meeting With Netanyahu

TA2905183095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Knesset Member David Levi said that if the Likud Central Committee meeting is postponed and the recommendations of the

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movement's secretariat [regarding the primary system] are reopened for negotiations, he will be prepared to meet with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. If, however, his terms are not met, he and his associates will be forced to quit the party.

David Levi sharply attacked Netanyahu, saying he uses specious working methods designed to push a large group of loyal and veteran members out of the party, secure the takeover of the party by one group, and ensure a majority for the person who controls the apparatus. Netanyahu makes lofty remarks about unity, Levi said, but his deeds are motivated by a desire to divide.

In response to a question on whether he will run for the premiership if he quits the Likud and sets up a new party, Levi said: All in good time, but I will consider this as well.

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions on Jerusalem

TA2905191595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] By a majority of 54 votes to 42, the Knesset plenum defeated the no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition factions over the government's (?decision) [words indistinct] (?replied) on behalf of the government and said that lust for power had caused the opposition to lose its honor and principles. Shahal asserted that it was the right-wing factions that brought about the expropriations freeze.

Poll: Majority Oppose Peace for Settlement Evacuation

TA3005084995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 May 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 56 percent of the public are opposed to a peace accord with Syria which includes defense arrangements, secure borders, and the evacuation of settlements, while 22 percent support such a move, according to a MA'ARIV poll conducted yesterday.

The poll was carried out by the Mutagim Institute — Market Research and Public Opinion Polls. Fifteen percent of those questioned said that do not know how they would have responded had a national referendum been held now, and 7 percent refused to respond.

The poll questioned 517 people, who constituted a representative sample of the Jewish population. The question asked was: "Had a national referendum been held today on a peace agreement with Syria, including defense arrangements for Israel and secure borders, in return for dismantling settlements on the Golan Heights, would you vote for or against such an agreement?"

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Al-Kabariti Views Reversal of Jerusalem Decision

MM3005150095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Al-Kabariti Tells AL-HAYAH: Israeli Arabs Will Have a Say in 1996 Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said yesterday that his country is assessing the effects and significance of Israel's suspension, for the first time, of its decision to expropriate Arab land in occupied Jerusalem despite the fact that the Israeli main political parties have always been unanimous on the question of Jerusalem.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he said that the suspension of the expropriation decision was "an event of great significance" because it "showed how fragile the Israeli party coalitions are and the importance of the positions of some leaderships in Israel," and it also demonstrated "the extent of the ability of the Arab deputies (in the Knesset) to change Israeli decisions."

Al-Kabariti said that the recent developments "confirm that the forthcoming Israeli elections are still open to all kinds of possibilities" regardless of the polls, which put Likud ahead.

He said that the Arabs of Israel, who constitute 18 percent of the population, "will have a say that will influence the results of the coming elections." He said that Jordan "feels a need to cement Jordan's relations with the Israeli Arabs and to develop these relations in the interest of the peace process and the moderates in Israel and Jordan."

He said that Jordan exercised "calm diplomacy before escalating the situation" with Israel regarding its decision to expropriate Arab land. He pointed out that King Husayn had sent a message to the Israeli Government, not announced at the time, "stressing the sensitivity of the Jerusalem issue for Jordan and the Jordanians, especially the Hashimites, and the damage and repercussions the expropriation decision would have on the peace process."

Al-Kabariti revealed that "what shocked the Israeli Government most in King Husayn's message (sent two days before the expropriation decision was suspended) was his assertion that Jordan considers East Jerusalem to be the capital of the Palestinian entity."

He said that the Jordanian position proved that the Israeli impression that Jordan's signing of the peace treaty with Israel "isolated it from its Arab community" was wrong. He stressed that the Israeli Government "now realizes that Jordan cannot be ignored in regional settlements calculations on any of the negotiation tracks and nor can the importance of its role be ignored when gauging Arab feelings."

Al-Kabariti reaffirmed that an Arab summit conference is still an urgent demand despite Israel's suspension of its land expropriation decision. He expressed the hope that "the decision to hold a summit would not be dictated by Israel." He was referring to the cancellation of the limited summit after the Israeli move.

Crown Prince Welcomes Syria-Israel Peace Progress

OW3005125795 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 May 95 Morning Edition p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] In a 25 May interview granted to NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Tokyo, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan bin-Talai welcomed resumption of peace talks between Syria and Israel, and said: "This will be a great step toward comprehensive peace in the Middle East." Regarding the recent U.S. pro-Israeli approach, he showed his concern over possible adverse effects on the future development of Middle East peace talks, and said: "It assumes such an attitude with an eye on domestic elections."

Prince Hasan, a younger brother of King Hussein, is superior in political jurisdiction to the foreign minister, and positively promotes the Middle East peace talks as a representative of the Arabic Moderates.

With regard to the fact that Syria and Israel have agreed to open negotiations by the end of June on security in the Golan Heights, he stressed: "Their agreement is as significant as the conclusion of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty." He said Syria and Israel are likely to have a hard time (before reaching an agreement) because a wide gap still exists between them. However, he added: "Their talks will have good influence on [Israel's] peace process with Lebanon (which has close relations with Syria), and will pave the way to achieving comprehensive peace."

Concerning the fact that on 22 May Israel announced its decision to freeze expropriation of land in east Jerusalem, Prince Hasan said: "We welcome its decision. However, there is a possibility that distrust of Israel will remain."

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Opposition Meeting Banned Due to 'Clear Instigation'

JN3005075995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by staff reporter Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — The government Monday [29 May] banned opposition parties from holdng a conference aimed at fighting normalisation of ties with Israel and said the measure was taken to stem threats the conference might have posed to national security and stability.

For its part, the mainly Islamist and leftist opposition immediately criticised the decision as "undemocratic" and said they insisted on holding the conference, probably in less than two weeks.

In a communique carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, a government source was quoted as accusing the conference's organisers of "going beyond what was intended for this meeting, as the final communique, which was prepared even before the conference was held, included clear instigation against this dear country, its institutions and achievements."

"The final statement prepared by the conference organisers calls for sedition, reverses facts, threatens its security and instigates people to destabilise the country," the unidentified source said. "The organisers are trying to give the credit of national struggle to other parties that have well-known stands ... the statement impinges on the history of the people, its Hashemite leadership, its struggle and sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and the Arab and Islamic nations. It is using democracy for the sake of abusing it, and exploits freedoms to encroach upon the freedoms of others."

The government went on to say: "Out of its constitutional commitment and keenness on preserving the safety of the country and protecting its democracy and freedoms, the government announces that while it opens all doors for dialogue, it will not tolerate any violation of the law or any infringement on its stability."

"The conference was allowed only as an expression of the Jordanian democratic option that is based on the Constitution and the National Charter and related laws ... but the conference's organisers have exceeded (the limits) of what was intended by this conference.

"Therefore, it has been decided to cancel this conference to safeguard the national fabric and the image of the country," the statement concluded.

The last draft of the final statement, which was finalised on Sunday and was expected to be adopted at the conference by more than 600 participants representing the opposition in the country, "cautions against the grave consequences that will result from lifting the Arab boycott against Israel and against Jordan's becoming a transit point for (Israel) to the Middle East."

Party sources said the government considered this article as a direct accusation of treachery and conspiracy. They said the government also protested the envisaged formation of a higher national committee that would give equal repreentation to the country's various sectors, parties and unions who reject normalising ties with Israel.

In a press conference held at the Islamic Action Front Party's [IAF] headquarters, Ishaq al-Farhan, the front's security general, said the government's decision to cancel the conference was undemocratic and described its reasons as "unfounded" and in contradiction with the Constitution.

"The governemnt has done considerable harm to the democratic process by cancelling the conference," said Dr. al-Farhan. "The move taken by the government lacks subtlety and backfires on democracy."

"We're not against the regime. We are all the way with our country," said Dr. al-Farhan. "But we are against normalisation and against attempts of Judaisation (of Jordan)."

Dr. al-Farhan said opposition parties insist on holding the conference and said the government's contention that the conference was going to be a threat to the stability and security of the country was untrue. He challenged the government for a television debate with representatives of the opposition or to hold an official press conference where the government can express its own point of view.

"I believe the government's excuses for banning the conference are merely a pretext and not the real reasons," said Taysir al- Zibri, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Party. "Preparatons for the conference made it clear that opposition in the country is not a minority. Even if we were a minority, we should have the right to express our opinions."

The conference, which, according to party sources, took months of preparations, was expected to attract prominent personalities and party representatives as well as tribal figures. The conference was mainly aimed at adopting a "charter of honour" that calls for banning all sorts of commercial and cultural links with Israel.

The government had refused to grant a permission to hold the conference last month but reversed its decision later on and accepted to hold it in al-Nukhbah Hall in

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front of the University of Jordan. The condition was that groups and personalities from Arab countries would not be invited.

Shortly after midnight Sunday, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir contacted and met with Dr. al-Farhan for two hours, opposition party sources said. Dr. al-Farhan was later informed, reportedly very early Monday, by Amman Governor Tal'at al-Nawaysah of the government's decision to bar the meeting.

Consequently, the preparatory committee could not reach people at such a short notice and decided to announce its cancellation on the spot, Mr. al-Zibri said. But some people, furious over the news, were roughed up by policemen who were surrounding the area. Eyewitnesses said the incident erupted after more than 400 participants decided to stage a march while police was trying to disperse the crowd.

"We were banned from entering the hall, staging demonstration or holding a march," said Faris Tahir al-Fayiz. "This is undemocratic. Opposition is not allowed to express its own point of view."

Mr. al-Fayiz said that people were furious because many came from remote parts of the country, such as Irbid, al-Ramtha, al-Karak and even from the Badya [desert] region to attend the conference only to find out that it was cancelled.

In the press conference, Dr. al-Farhan reproted physical assault on an IAF member, a student and the secretary general of he Engineers Association. Eyewitnesses said international press crew were also roughed up but no major injury was reported.

Islamic States Urged To Respond to Bosnian Crisis

JN2905084095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 May 95 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "The Bosnian Ordeal and the Islamic Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was quite logical for the submissive UN policy toward the exacerbating Serb aggression to lead to further deterioration of the situation and to the intensification of the tendency for aggression. This was manifested most savagely in the assassination of the Bosnian foreign minister yesterday.

What made things worse is that the NATO lacks enough willpower commensurate with its military reputation. It carried out a show-like bombardment against marginal Serb positions and soon retreated submissively before the Serb reaction — a reaction characterized by a flagrant defiance of and provocation against an alliance which used to stand against the former socialist bloc.

This is not the first time that Bosnia has lost leaders and officials before the very eyes of UN forces. Yesterday's killing of the Bosnian foreign minister was preceded by the assassination of Bosnia's deputy prime minister while under the protection of the UN peacekeeping forces who, in turn, are being subjected to acts of killing, kidnapping, and humiliation.

At a time when the international community is unable to stand up to the Serb defiance, not to say preserve peace, and at a time when the United Nations, NATO, and the big powers are unable to confront military militias that heed no laws, we do not understand why the arms embargo on the Muslim Bosnian people should continue, especially since the United Nations is unable to tackle a situation it helped further complicate through its hesitation.

Therefore, we call on the United Nations to immediately lift the arms embargo on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, so that these besieged people would have the chance of defending themselves. We also call on the Islamic countries not to stand idly toward this despicable scene — which is reminiscent of what happened in Andalusia over 500 years ago — and urge them to offer weapons, money, ammunition, and anything that would free the leaders of this nation from the guilt of remaining silent over the slaughtering of their brothers, who could have defended their existence if they had the means of steadfastness and fighting. Such means are available to the peoples of this big nation.

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Prime Minister Returns Home From Alexandria

NC3005064195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Alexandria via Damascus last night. While there, he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and they reviewed current developments. [passage omitted]

Reports View al-Hariri Meeting With U.S. Charge

NC3005073695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 May 95

["Spotlight on the Events" program: "The U.S. Veto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; some media have been circulating reports that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ron Schlicher informed Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri of Washington's dissatisfaction with the idea of including a Hizballah representative in the government. This was reconfirmed by responsible sources in the U.S. State Department. However, the essence of the matter is whether Prime Minister al-Hariri did actually receive such a veto and how he handled it. The question is put to Prime Minister al-Hariri and all Lebanese officials, and what their stance is regarding this U.S. insolence and flagrant interference in Lebanese affairs. Did Prime Minister al-Hariri angrily criticize such a request and inform Schlicher of his protest over such insolent and blatant interference? Or did he just listen to the veto statement without commenting? Did al-Hariri and others know that the U.S. veto is a veto against the resistance to the occupation? Does the silence mean that officials accept the U.S. veto where they can and inform Washington of their inability where they cannot?

Away from the veto and its effects and the issue of whether Hizballah sought to acquire a cabinet seat or did not seek such a seat, although it has rejected such an offer because of an issue relating to the nature of the circumstances and formulation of the government; away from this issue, do Lebanese officials see the U.S. veto as a natural thing or do they view it as an unjustified and unacceptable interference in Lebanese affairs? If officials reject such interference, then what did al-Hariri tell Schlicher? And what was the Lebanese officials' stance after reports about the U.S. veto came out? If officials accept and have no objections to such a veto, we want to ask: When does the Lebanese Government accept U.S. vetoes and when does it not respond to them? It is well-known that U.S. vetoes are numerous, the foremost of which is the veto against the Resistance's arms and weapons. Does the Lebanese Government accept such a veto? Does the Lebanese Government believe that Hizballah's political legitimacy stems from Washington's approval of its role? Does Washington believe that Hizballah acquires legitimacy by entering the government? The legitimacy of resistance, victory, massive solidarity, and expanded and large-scale presence under the dome of parliament—in other words, representational legitimacy—are all enough for Hizballah to confirm that it is a basic and rooted presence in the Lebanese arena. Hizballah does not need to confirm its legitimacy by entering the cabinet and assuming one of its seats, because the cabinet itself requires legitimacy from the Chamber of Deputies and Hizballah, one of the most important and active groups within the Chamber. Are all those included in the cabinet legitimate? It used to include among its ranks some members who are defendants now and are on trial.

We have no quarrel with the U.S. veto, while confirming that the age of effective vetoes has passed. Although Washington has succeeded in executing its vetoes in the international bodies because it has no rivals, these vetoes crash against the rock of determination and persistence in our people. The resistance cannot be toppled by a veto, nor does it stop by a boycott. It continues to be a thorn in the side of the occupying enemy, despite all U.S. displeasure with it and concerted efforts to topple and abort it. Our discussions are with our government and the Lebanese political authority. Was it natural for al-Hariri to receive Schlicher on the eve of the cabinet formation announcement? Even if the meeting did not discuss the subject of the government formation, would it not have been more appropriate for al-Hariri to postpone such a meeting for fear of reports being publicized that some instructions were issued? Or was it that al-Hariri wanted his government to be blessed by the United States before presenting it officially and before submitting it to parliament for a vote of confidence? We notice that scenes from the meeting show that there was a great deal of insolence. Schlicher was sitting in a very rude way and was chuckling away. Is this part of the diplomacy of arrogance and humiliation? How can Lebanese officials accept such an insult? Do they intend to respond to it? Or is it Lebanon's demand that Washington should remind us of at least a veto so that we can remain sure that it has not forgotten us and that we are still on its mind?

Russia's Posuvalyuk Comments After Meeting Buwayz

NC2605121295 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held a round of talks with the Russian president's special envoy, Viktor Posuvalyuk, at Bustrus Palace today.

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After the talks, Posuvalyuk said: We exchanged views on bilateral ties and focused on the ongoing preparations for a visit by a Lebanese trade and industrial delegation to Moscow next month to expand trade exchange between the two countries. The talks also dealt with regional and international issues, notably the Middle East.

In response to a question, Posuvalyuk said that he is eagerly waiting for his meeting with Syrian officials in Damascus tomorrow.

Adding that it is still too early to speak of details, he noted that the progress made on the Syrian-Israeli track is a positive step forward.

Posuvalyuk said that he conveyed some ideas from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to his Lebanese counterpart.

Asked to comment on the impasse in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, he answered: We strongly back movement on the Lebanese-Israeli track. We believe that in addition to the legal principles involved in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, there is another legal angle of particular interest to Lebanon, namely Resolution 425.

Posuvalyuk reiterated Russia's support for Lebanon's sovereignty and unity.

In answer to a question about the persistent Israeli naval blockade of the southern Lebanese coast, he stated: We believe that all matters must be discussed at the negotiating table.

Asked if he had conveyed any ideas about reactivating the peace process from the Israeli officials to Minister Buwayz, Posuvalyuk replied: I relayed my impressions about my discussions with the Israeli officials. These impressions are a diplomatic matter, not a matter for the press.

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Radio Cites Rabin, Peres Statements on Peace

JN3105062595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Palestine — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that any person who says that peace can be achieved while keeping the entire Golan plateau, or the major part of it, is lying.

In statements reported by Israeli radio, Rabin said: I wish to say, simply and plainly, that any person who says peace can be attained while keeping the entire Golan Heights is in fact saying there will be no peace. We must say this very plainly to the Israelis. We say to any person who says that he wishes to attain peace while keeping the entire Golan Heights you have the right to think whatever you want, but we must say the truth, the whole truth.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday said that peace with Syria and Lebanon will be different from peace with other states because this peace will mean the end of war in the Middle East.

Referring to the negotiations with Syria, Peres said that the Israeli Government is determined to win peace even if this means it will lose the elections because winning peace, he said, is much more important than winning the elections.

Al-Shar's Beirut Visit, Security Arrangements Viewed

NC3005171095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 30 May (MENA) — Lebanese officials are studying with great interest the ideas that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed during his visit to Lebanon yesterday concerning the framework of understanding reached between the Syrian and Israeli sides on security arrangements in preparation for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and its impact on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

Lebanese political sources disclosed today that al-Shar', who paid a brief and unscheduled visit to Beirut yesterday and met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, explained that the agreement reached between Syria and Israel on the principle of understanding had come after the U.S. Administration presented a specific proposal on the principle of security arrangements covering three basic points. According to this principle, the arrangements will be parallel and equal [mutawaziyah wa mutasawiyah] for the two sides, particularly concerning the area of the demilitarized zones as well as the zones with reduced military presence for the two sides.

The sources pointed out that al-Shar' stressed to the Lebanese officials Syria's adherence to the need to reach a declaration of principles on these security arrangements before entering into political negotiations on the entire peace process. The sources added that despite the sense of optimism and the Syrian leadership's interest in the U.S. and Israeli ideas submitted thus far, the Syrians do not want to say that tangible progress has been made on the Syrian-Israeli track before U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross' visit next week and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit a week later.

The sources added that it is understood from al-Shar' that Ross' mission will be of a technical nature and will deal with a number of technical matters concerning the duration and pace of the withdrawal, the area of demilitarized zones, and the number of troops deployed between the two sides. As for Christopher's visit, it will focus on political issues of strategic dimensions, particularly with respect to the normalization of relations, the security guarantees, and the wording of the declaration of principles.

Lebanese sources believe that if Christopher and Ross succeed in securing a declaration of principles on security arrangements allowing for the resumption of the meetings of military experts in Washington in June, a Syrian-Israeli agreement on the withdrawal and the normalization of relations could be concluded by the end of the year.

Western diplomatic circles earlier expected the demilitarized zone to be 15 km on each side of the borders, where U.S., Japanese, and UN troops would be deployed and where early warning centers would be installed. According to the same circles, Syria still insists on its proposal that the withdrawal be implemented within 18 months.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Meets Vice President Khaddam

NC3005060795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Damascus yesterday evening, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They reviewed current events in light of developments in the peace process. Prime Minister al-Hariri, on the sidelines of the 6th conference for Arab businessmen and investors, which started meetings yesterday in Alexandria, denied reports about having come under U.S. pressure to exclude the Islamic current from the new government. He stated that the government continues to support resistance activities against the Israeli occupation. He described the new government as a government of work and stability and that it is cohesive and united. Despite

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the fact that its constitutional term is relatively short, he said it will operate as though it is much more mature.

Al-Asad, Kuwaiti Amir Hold Dialogue in Damascus

JN3005144395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, arrived in Damascus at 1400 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received the amir. He was also received at the airport by Vice Presidents Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali. [passage omitted]

The president and the amir held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, al-Shar', and the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait. The meeting was also attended by the official delegation accompanying the amir and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Ahmar Returns From China, Emirates Visits

JN2905202095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], and his delegation returned to Damascus from China this evening at the end of a friendly visit. During the visit he held party and political talks and met with Chinese officials. He discussed bolstering relations between the ASBP and the Chinese Communist Party, as well as bolstering ties between the two friendly countries.

He and his delegation were received at Damascus International Airport by a number of ASBP National and Regional Commands members, a number of party cadres, the Chinese ambassador in Damascus, and a number of embassy staff members.

On his way back, al-Ahmar and his delegations stopped over in the sisterly United Arab Emirates and met with His Highness Shaykh Dr. Sultan Bin-Muhammad Al Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of al-Sharjah.

Talks dealt with the close fraternal relations and the importance of bolstering and deepening them in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and their Arab people, as well as strengthening the fraternal bonds between the sons of the one Arab nation. Talks also dealt with the developments in the Arab arena and the peace process.

Comrade al-Ahmar also met correspondents from the three Emirates newspapers AL-ITTIHAD, AL-KHALIJ, and AL-BAYAN, and spoke about the developments in the region and the peace process. He stressed Syria's principled and firm stance in defense of the nation's causes and rights. He explained Syrian efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive peace that ends occupation and restores rights to their owners.

He also highlighted the construction and development efforts in Syria and the huge achievements made by its Arab people under the leadership of comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He emphasized the importance of national unity, the strength of the internal front, and stability, which are the features that have become the characteristics of contemporary Syria, the basis of its progress, and the source of its strength in defending the nation's rights and its interests.

He also spoke about the importance of bolstering Arab solidarity and the mechanisms of joint Arab action in confronting the challenges facing our Arab nation and in order to move ahead toward Arab unity, which is the common objective of all nation's sons.

Paper Praises Agreement on Security Arrangements

JN3105081795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "The Genuine Peace," TISHRIN notes that Syria entered the peace process in order to make a new type of genuine peace that can return rights, preserve dignity, and terminate elements of aggression, injustice, and tension. Therefore, TISHRIN asserts, Damascus did not drift behind separate deals, devised under the slogan of peace, which only increased tension and instability, exacerbated the Palestinian people's problems, and hampered the chances for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region.

TISHRIN adds: Syria's firm position and the solid foundations on which this position is based, and Syria's adherence to the national and pan-Arab interests, have ultimately convinced the world of the soundness of the principles which Damascus proposed as the basis for ending conflict in the region. Current events confirm the soundness of the Syrian argument, which is based on the land-for-peace formula, the comprehensive solution that is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the equality [musawah], equitability [takafu'], and reciprocity [taqabul] of the security arrangements.

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TISHRIN says: The Oslo Agreement did not bring peace. The increase in tension in the occupied territories that followed this deal proves this fact. Furthermore, departure from the comprehensive solution also failed to help reach the desired peace. The majority of the already-agreed upon separate agreements came to meet the Israeli interests at the expense of the Arab rights. All events and developments confirmed the soundness of the arguments Damascus proposed to build peace. It is impossible to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region away from the constants on which the Syrian position is based.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria's adherence to the national and pan- Arab rights, its steadfastness in the face of the extortion and deception campaigns, and the serious and constructive contribution it made to formulate sound foundations for a settlement that can survive have made it possible to arrive at the recent agreement on the framework of security arrangements based on the principles of balance [tawazun], equality [tasawi], and symmetry [tanazur]. The importance of this agreement lies in the fact that it constitutes a step forward in the peace process toward the just settlement and genuine peace. This agreement will also test the seriousness of the Israeli Government toward peace. The final judgment on the agreement will depend on the extent to which it is implemented and to which its principles are translated into practical formulas on the ground.

In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH refers to the recent statements made by Israeli officials in which they acknowledge that the Golan Heights are Syrian territory and should be returned to their owners.

AL-THAWRAH says: Despite the importance of the consecutive Israeli statements in this regard, such statements are not enough because peace is achieved through deeds, not words.

AL-THAWRAH adds: These statements, as well as the understanding on security arrangements on the basis of equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], and parallelism [tawazi] must be translated into deeds before one can say that peace is within reach.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that after all this long time of negotiations and international efforts, Israel now realizes that Syria cannot accept a peace that does not return all of its territory and national and pan-Arab rights.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Unless Israel abandons the mentality of making gains at the expense of the Arabs, their land and rights, and stops evading the requirements of peace, then the arrival at the other aspects of the peace process — including the concept of full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines, the applications of peace, and full withdrawal from southern Lebanon — may take years.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Peace is in the interest of all parties and Syria is interested in a peace that would return all of its lands and rights. Therefore, Israel's acceptance of the requirements of peace, particularly complete withdrawal, will pave the way to that peace and open doors to stability in the region.

Commentary: 'Sincerity' Key to Peace Progress

JN3005134795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The foreign minister has briefed the Lebanese Government on the details of the framework of understanding that was reached in Washington and stressed the unity of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process.

In fact, the unity of the two tracks has become a self-evident truth. Any positive development on one of the two tracks will surely be reflected on the other track. The framework of understanding is an important step for both Syria and Lebanon, but remains a mere framework or a set of principles that should be implemented by military experts. Hence, the progress that was realized is only the beginning of negotiating action that should be crowned with full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders.

If peace is to be realized in return for land, then Syria and Lebanon insist on restoring their occupied territories in full — until the last inch — in a manner that allows the displaced Syrians and Lebanese to return to their homes and land and resume their normal lives.

The peace process will only make progress as Israel prepares to withdraw and to end its occupation of the Syrian and Lebanese territories. Hence, it is not enough for this or that Israeli minister to announce that the Golan is Syrian territory and that Israel has no ambitions in Lebanon, but this should be translated into real action on the ground in which Israel withdraws from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories. With this, the steps toward peace will be real ones because there is no peace without the return of the land and rights and without ensuring the security and dignity of all parties.

It is known that the forces of extremism, aggression, and racism in Israel are currently mobilizing all their capabilities in order to sabotage the peace process, especially after the declaration in Washington of progress on the Syrian track. These forces instigate the settlers in

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the Golan to carry out provocative actions. This should lead the Israeli rulers to speak frankly to their citizens and tell them that peace and occupation cannot be combined, and that there is no alternative to full withdrawal, the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, and abidance by the charters and principles of the international community.

Based on this, the continued talk by some Israeli officials about a referendum on the Golan does not serve peace. The citizens of Israel have no right to vote on the Golan because the land has always been Syrian. The Israeli foreign minister himself admitted that no Israeli has any right to the Golan.

As much as the Israeli rulers face the facts of peace courageously and with sincerity, they will advance the peace process. Syria, which has emphasized that peace is its strategic option, has also emphasizes its right to its land and sovereignty and that it will not relinquish any inch of the Syrian and Lebanese territories. Since the beginning, Syria has linked the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and stressed that they are inseparable. This means that withdrawal from the Golan should be coupled with withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The honorable peace, dubbed the peace of the brave by Syria, is the only thing that can realize peace and stability for all countries of the region. The terms of this peace have become clear and known. They are summed up by the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' land by force in accordance with the principle of trading land for peace that ensures dignity, security, and justice for all.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets High-Ranking Saudi Delegation

LD3005185395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], received this morning a high-ranking delegation from Saudi Arabia headed by His Excellency Prince Turki al-Faysal, head of Saudi Arabia's national security and special envoy of the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that the meeting was attended by esteemed Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, emir of Ettehad-e Eslami; Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister; esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud [Kabul City Commission chairman]; esteemed Fahim, head of national security; esteemed Masud Khalili, a number of ministers and generals of the army.

Besides Prince Turki al-Faysal, the Saudi delegation consists of 'Abdallah 'Ali Zahrawi, Ahmad Muhammad Badi, Ahmad Sa'id al-'Abidi and al-Utaybi, former ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Kabul.

According to another report in a separate meeting, submitting a message of his excellency King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince Turki al-Faysal, head of Saudi Arabia's national security, expressed the hope that very soon complete peace and security would be restored in Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan would start the reconstruction of their country in an atmosphere of peace and calm.

In response esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA, spoke about the historic relations between the people of Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, and mentioned with gratitude the selfless assistance of that country with the people of Afghanistan during the jihad years.

According to another report, Saudi Arabia's head of national security participated in a function launched in his honor in the Golkhana Palace of the premiership. [passage omitted]

According to another report the Saudi Arabian delegation met today with teachers of the Institute of Polytechnic of Kabul and doctors of Military Medical Institute in the Golkhana Palace of the premiership. During the meeting, which was attended by the acting prime minister and a number of ministers, talks were held about the assistance of Saudi Arabia for the reconstruction of those institutions.

The high-ranking Saudi Arabian delegation arrived this morning in Kabul at the invitation of the ISA. The delegation was welcomed by esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister; esteemed Fahim, head of national security; esteemed Masud Khalili, representative of esteemed Borhanoddan Rabbani, president of the ISA in Pakistan; senior government officials, generals of the army and members of the corps diplomatic.

Party Leader, Iranian Envoy Address Issues

LD3005125995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation in Kabul is returning to normal, and delegations from Germany, Saudi Arabia, France and the United States have arrived in the city in the past week.

The delegations, who have come to Kabul with the mission to expand cultural cooperation, held talks with the president and other Afghan officials, and discussed the conditions and circumstance for reopening their embassies in Kabul. The situation in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, has been described as totally normal.

Our correspondent in Kabul gives you more information:

[Correspondent] When the clashes ended in Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan, the people of Kabul resumed their normal lives, and the country is moving toward a relatively normal situation. [passage omitted]

Disagreements among the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin groups, the adverse economic situation, and the fact that rival groups still have arms, have, however, created serious problems in the path of establishing of peace in Afghanistan.

Concerning Afghanistan's current problems, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of the Jamiyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] organization says:

[Mas'ud] *The government has prepared a draft plan on resolving Afghanistan's crisis, and you can obtain the plan from official sources.*

[Correspondent] *What is your plan for the opposition groups, including the Taleban? Will you deal with them by way of political negotiations or will you continue your offensives against them?*

[Mas'ud] *We plan to have talks with all sides, and resolve all problems through negotiations.*

[Correspondent] Mr Haddadi, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kabul says:

[Haddadi] *We have spared no efforts in moves to achieve the realization of peace, stability and internal security in Afghanistan. With regard to assistance to Afghanistan,*

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the Islamic Republic has so far sent over 150 aircraft with aid to Kabul.

[Correspondent] What can make Afghanistan move toward a real peace is the participation of all the groups in the political future of the country.

Commentary: Coordination Council Never Wanted War

LD2905190595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nowadays there is a lot of talk about negotiations between the Kabul administration and the National Islamic Movement. Russia seems to be actively trying to bring those two sides together. In this connection, sometimes the Kabul administration officials speak, too. Last night, Aziz Morad, a spokesman of the Ustad Rabbani office, again after a long time acted in his habitual manner. In an interview with the BBC, Aziz Morad said that it seemed that the High Coordination Council [HCC] and the National Islamic Movement did not want to fight anymore. We have no doubt that the HCC forces do not want war. However, the fighting has been imposed on them. They will be entertaining the wrong perception if they believe they can beguile either the National Islamic Movement or the HCC.

We believe, and it is a fact that so long as the causes of the fighting have not been eliminated, it is impossible to put an end to the fighting. The greatest cause of the fighting is the insistence of a small group to remain in power. The only reason for the bloodshed and the destruction over the past years has been the insistence of the Kabul administration on its illegitimate power. It has never paid attention to the rights of the others, nor has it respected the nation's public opinion, national interests, nor the goals of the jihad.

The Kabul administration is holding talks with General Dostam for the very problems it has with many other forces and parties. We believe that, so long as the reasons for which Dostam has opposed the Kabul administration have not been removed, the hostility between them will stay.

If Aziz Morad says that they do not to fight any more, it should be said that no patriotic person or party will rejoice in the destruction of the country or the death of the compatriots. War is a grave phenomenon that burns everything. No one with a sound conscience will enter a fight happily. We once again repeat that the HCC forces never wanted fighting in the country for a moment and never will. If they were obliged to enter fighting in the past, it was because of the Kabul administration's acts. If this happens in the future too, its responsibility will rest with the Ustad Rabbani group, because his power has no legitimate and legal value. Apart from the Supervisory Council, no one else among the supporters of the Kabul administration enjoys any following in the country. The observers believe that not only the key to the solution of the problems with General Dostam, but also with the whole nation is with the Kabul administration. It should give in to the will of the nation and should cooperate with the formation of an acceptable-to- the-nation elected leadership, and should take the path of logic and discussion instead of fighting. This is the only way to resolve the problem of the country.

Bangladesh

Eighth Joint Economic Commission With China Held

Economic, Trade Ties Addressed

BK2405133895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The eighth meeting of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission [JEC] that began in Dhaka today emphasized the expansion of bilateral economic and trade ties between the two countries. Madam Li Guohua, the visiting Chinese deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, and Mr. Lutfullahil Majid, the secretary of the Economic Relations Division [ERD] of Bangladesh, led their respective sides at today's session. Among other issues under discussion at this three-day meeting are a review of progress made in the implementation of the decisions made at the last JEC meeting in Beijing in 1992, including cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and science and technology.

Inaugurating the meeting, ERD Secretary Lutfullahil Majid expressed the hope that this JEC meeting will formulate programs to strengthen bilateral economic and trade cooperation. He also praised the PRC Government for extending financial assistance to Bangladesh's socioeconomic development efforts.

Madam Li, the Chinese deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, expressing similar sentiments, referred to the gradual increase in economic and trade ties between the two countries and added that Dhaka and Beijing should further expand their trade. She gave assurances that measures will be taken to remove the prevailing trade imbalance. In 1994, trade between Bangladesh and China stood at $357 million.

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Meeting Concludes; Minutes Signed

BK2605163295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The three-day long eighth session of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission concluded in Dhaka today with the signing of the agreed minutes. The secretary of the Economic Relations Division, Lutfullahil Majid, and the visiting deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation of China, Madam Li Guohua, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

A press release of the Economic Relations Division stated that this meeting was held in a sincere, friendly, and cooperative atmosphere. The meeting reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China with emphasis on the fields of economic cooperation and trade.

Meeting, 'Excellent Friendship' Viewed

BK2905014295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 28 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three-day meeting of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission, JEC, that concluded in Dhaka on Friday [26 May] last identified a number of areas for further strengthening bilateral cooperation. In view of excellent bilateral friendship and understanding between the two sides, the decisions of the JEC will certainly help harness the potential of collaboration in the mutuality of interests.

The Bangladesh-China JEC in Dhaka reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations in the fields of economic cooperation and trade. It, thus, considered new proposals and took decisions to further expand the areas of bilateral cooperation. The two sides signed the agreed minutes at the end of the JEC meeting clearing indicating such areas for future economic cooperation and trade expansion. It is particularly welcome that China has allowed Bangladesh to repay the loan installments due in the next five years by commodities. Accordingly, a buyer mission from Beijing will visit Dhaka late this year to identify and purchase Bangladesh's commodities. This move will help diversify further the bilateral trade contributing in the process to raising Bangladesh's export potential. Now that export development efforts constitute a major focus of the development strategy in Bangladesh, the promotion of Dhaka's exports to Beijing will lend further strength to such a strategy.

At the JEC meeting, both sides have further agreed to expedite the signing of agreements for avoidance of double taxation, and reciprocal promotion and protection of (?mutual trade). The early conclusion of such agreements will encourage private investment, particularly by the Chinese entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. In this connection it is noteworthy that the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry has already proposed the formation of a joint business council with its Chinese counterpart. China has responded positively to the proposal. It has agreed to refer the proposal along with decisions relating to shipping and air link agreements to the concerned Chinese authorities for their consideration.

At the JEC meeting in Dhaka, the Chinese side has further assured Bangladesh of early move to start a new bridge project. They have also shown interest in [words indistinct], credit for construction of 300-megawatt Boro Pukhuria coal-based power plant and [word indistinct] ammonium phosphate plant. Viewed in these contexts, the outcome of the Bangladesh-China JEC meeting would be considered welcome. The decisions taken at the meeting will help widen the existing bilateral economic and trade ties between the two countries. These decisions will have a positive impact on strengthening Dhaka's economic relations with Beijing. One might note here that the Sino-Bangladesh economic relations need to be deepened for expanding the areas of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the context of neogeoeconomic potential for regional collaboration. It is therefore only befitting that both sides have now agreed at initiatives for charting out a course of action for the same. Strong bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries (?with) deep significance in the changed regional and international context have maximum mutual economic benefits. In the new realities (?with) Bangladesh is advantageous of having wider cooperation with China is quite clear. [sentence as heard] This is more so because of excellent friendship and cooperation that exists between the two countries at the political level.

Government Appoints New Air Force, Navy Chiefs

BK2905023595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has appointed Air Commodore Jamaluddin Ahmed as chief of the Bangladesh Air Force. His appointment will be effective 4 June. He will replace Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury. Mr. Altaf will retire on 3 June following the completion of the term of his assignment.

The government has also appointed Commodore Mohammad Nurul Islam as chief of the Bangladesh Navy. His appointment will be effective 4 June. A press release issued by the Ministry of Defense in Dhaka yesterday

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said that the naval chief, Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam, will retire on 3 June following the completion of the term of his assignment.

India

Kashmir Said Internal Issue Despite 'Propaganda'

BK3105122195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has cautioned against falling into the trap of Pakistan, which is trying to internationalize the Kashmir issue.

He told the Rajya Sabha during question time today that Kashmir is an internal issue and India will not allow Pakistan to internationalize it. He said efforts by India has yielded successful results in countering the malicious propaganda by Pakistan. He said there is no plan now to send nonofficial delegations to Muslim and other countries to explain to them the role of Pakistan in the destruction of Charar Sharif. Such a delegation will be sent as and when the situation warrants.

Radio Welcomes Christopher's Kashmir Remarks

BK2605154095 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 May 95

[Commentary by Rai Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ever since the Simla agreement was signed in 1972, both India and Pakistan have accepted the Kashmir issue to be a bilateral issue which does not brook any outside mediation or arbitration. In spite of this solemn acceptance, Pakistan has been trying to internationalize the Kashmir issue by raising it at each and every regional and international forums. It has even resorted to proxy war against India by sending their terrorists and heartless elements into Kashmir in order to destabilize the situation and to take political mileage on the pretext of violations of human rights for which, in fact, its own infiltrators and heartless elements were responsible, as in the Hazratbal [shrine] and Charar Sharif episodes. The burning down of the Charar Sharif shrine on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha this month by the hired Pakistani mercenaries and terrorists have demonstrated clearly that Pakistan has been exploiting the religious sentiments of the people to grab what does not belong to it.

For some reason or the other, Washington has been turning a Nelson's eye to Pakistan's doings in Kashmir, but having seen through the Pakistani game in Kashmir and being acutely aware of the danger it portends for the region, Washington has at last publicly acknowledged Kashmir to be a bilateral issue to be resolved peacefully without any outside mediation or interference. [Words indistinct] his luncheon meeting with India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who is on an official visit to the United States of America, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 23 May made it clear in Washington that the USA considers Kashmir a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, which he called to be resolved through a constructive dialogue. He said Washington would be happy if India and Pakistan were able to settle the matter amicably. Of course, it cannot be termed as a pro-India stand, but it cannot be denied either that it is an improvement on the early U.S. position on the issue. It is hoped that this modified if not the new U.S. attitude on Kashmir would encourage Pakistan to respond positively to Indian offer of talks under the Simla agreement. Once that process starts, tension between the two countries would be lessened and confidence-building measures could be taken to further improve the situation.

In fact, India has already taken steps to normalize conditions in Kashmir by going in for the democratic process of holding elections in about two months time despite various difficulties and pronouncements by the pro-Pakistan elements in Kashmir that they would not participate in the election. This is understandable because once they participate in the election and fail to measure up to people's expectations, they would lose face and also lose the validation of their demand for separation of Jammu and Kashmir from India. What is important is that even U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that ordering of elections in Kashmir was just one step but an important step toward the normalization of the situation. This means that Washington appreciates the Indian initiative of reviving the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. This was evident when Mr. Christopher stated that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee had explained to him the steps taken by India to normalize the situation in Kashmir and added we are encouraged by these steps. Earlier, Mr. Christopher described the Kashmir situation as grave but his appreciation of the steps taken by India to revive the democratic process [words indistinct] shows that Washington has now started endorsing India's efforts for the normalization process in the state. In the given situation, it is all the more necessary for Washington to persuade Pakistan to give up its policy of proxy war against India and respond positively to India's gesture of mutual talks on the issue. India has made it clear to all that though Pakistan has no locus standii on the issue, yet in the larger interest of peace in the region, India is prepared to accommodate Pakistan in the talks on Kashmir. It is unfortunate that despite this spirit of accommodation, Pakistan leadership has been trying to gain military advantage over India by seeking to get

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U.S. F-16 fighter planes which remain blocked under the Pressler law. It was opportune on the part of India's external affairs minister to say categorically that in case Pakistan planned to acquire [words indistinct] the F-16 fighter planes, India would also have to augment its defense efforts to safeguard its security and the security of the region. The USA may not appreciate India's stand on issues like nonproliferation and threat perceptions, but it is gratifying to note that the Indo-U.S. relations are proceeding well along the lines of partnership within the framework of the Clinton-Rao communique.

Accord Signed With China on Exchange of Experts

BK2905162695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have finalized a draft agreement of cooperation for exchange of experts, technicians, craftsmen, research workers, specialists, and scholars.

According to an official press note, the labor minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, and the visiting Chinese labor minister, Mr. Li Boyong, signed the agreement in New Delhi today. It also provides for exchange of information on vocational training, employment services, labor relations, and manpower adjustments.

Mr. Li Boyong will also have discussions with state government authorities at Agra, Bangalore, Bombay, and Goa.

British Official Pays Visit, Views Economy

Discusses Key Areas of Talks

BK3005024995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, has expressed confidence that more foreign capital will flow into the Indian economy in view of the impressive record of the country's economic development. Mr. Clarke was speaking to newspersons in New Delhi after his meetings with the finance and commerce ministers today. Mr. Clarke spelt out the key areas of his discussions as investments in infrastructure, opening up of financial services including insurance to foreign investors, problems of British investors, and the pace of Indian economic reforms. He said both government and opposition leaders have assured Britain that the direction of India's economic liberalization program is irreversible.

Later, Mr. Clarke spoke to Doordarshan news on the focus of his visit to India.

[Begin Clarke recording] If you have a poor country, you are bound to have poor people. If you have a wealthier country, there are poor people, but I quite agree that [words indistinct] but all the banks and finance houses and the insurance business that I brought here from London don't just bring British money; they act on behalf of investors throughout the world. So the financial services of the city of London are aware of getting some American, European, Asian finance into major projects. [end recording]

Mr. Clarke also met the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and discussed the means to make Indo-British partnership more successful. The issues regarding counter guarantee in the power sector and the delay of the settlement process at the stock market were also discussed.

The chancellor also called on the commerce minister, Mr. Chidambaram. The minister deliberated upon the trade promotion and other bilateral issues.

Summary of Comments, Activities

BK3105080495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that the government remains committed to providing the same democratic setup in Jammu and Kashmir as prevailing in the rest of the country. Mr. Narasimha Rao said this during his meeting with Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, in New Delhi this morning. Mr. Clarke expressed the hope that given India's various advantages like democracy and rule of law, the economic reforms would continue.

Mr. Clarke also met the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan. He appreciated the ongoing reforms program in India. During his meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the two leaders reviewed the economic cooperation at various levels between the two countries. Mr. Mukherjee stressed the importance of India-British partnership initiative in developing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing a seminar organized by the Federation of Indian Industries and the British groups of finance and business services, Mr. Clarke said India has emerged as a major industrial force and modern economy. Addressing the seminar, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said the economic reforms have helped the Center to concentrate more on the social sector. He refuted the charge that the poor do not stand to gain much from the new policy.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke also called on the union minister of power, Mr. N.K.P. Salve. They held wide-ranging

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discussion on cooperation between the United Kingdom and India in the power sector.

Election Commissioner Addresses Kashmir Elections

BK2705091095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief election commissioner has said that the decision regarding holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be announced shortly. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar today, Mr. Seshan said that the decision will be taken after reviewing the situation and taking care of all aspects in view. He said he met representatives of almost all major political parties and learnt their viewpoints today. The chief election commissioner declared that elections will be conducted in a free and fair atmosphere and there will be no complaints of rigging. He said he will consider the request of some political parties to visit Jammu and Ladakh before arriving at any decision.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0818 GMT on 27 May in a Srinagar- datelined report adds: "Kashmiri journalists stormed out of a press conference called by India's poll panel chief here on Saturday [27 May] after he accused the local BBC correspondent of misreporting the Muslim militancy. Some 50 reporters, gathered at a government guest house, got into a heated argument with Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan after he ordered the BBC reporter, Yusuf Jameel, to get out. Seshan, who arrived here from New Delhi to assess whether legislative elections could be held in Kashmir, alleged that Jameel, a veteran journalist who also writes for the Reuter news agency and an Indian newspaper, was misreporting the Muslim separatist movement in Kashmir. Angry journalists immediately rose to denounce his remarks. But Seshan was adamant and said he would not hold the news conference in the presence of Jameel. The journalists then decided to boycott the press conference, leaving Seshan in the company of officials of Kashmir's information department and members of the state-run Indian electronic media."]

BJP Backs Move on President's Rule in Kashmir

BK3005132895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says the reported decision of the government to extend president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir is necessary and the corrective step. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the party leader, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said the BJP parliamentary party has welcomed the decision as the situation is not conducive to polls in the state in July.

Iran

Velayati on U.S. Gulf Presence, Talks 'Proposals'

LD3105100895 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran's ties with European countries are growing and that Tehran welcomed expansion of such relations.

Talking exclusively to the Persian-language daily 'IRAN,' he referred to the U.S. policy of positioning its fleet in the Persian Gulf as "a step towards building up its military presence in the region."

Stressing that this was not a new policy, he said regional countries should be aware of the consequences of such a presence. Velayati remarked that military presence of aliens in a sensitive region such as the Persian Gulf was not to the benefit of regional countries. He said he had discussed this critical issue as well as mutual ties in his recent meetings with Omani and Qatari ministers in Tehran.

Referring to the renewed proposals by Washington for having official talks with Iran, the foreign minister reiterated that Iran's stands had already been clarified by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The minister pointed to the hostile stance the U.S. adopted against Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution, adding that such a policy had undergone no changes so far.

He described Iran-Europe ties as positive and said Iran enjoyed an overall growth of ties with the continent though its relations with European states was at different levels. Velayati further referred to the recent remarks of heads of some European states on U.S. trade sanctions against Iran and said it indicated to their good and increasing ties with Iran.

Commenting on Tehran-Moscow ties, the foreign minister remarked that the recent visit of the U.S. President Bill Clinton to Moscow proved that Moscow was willing to broaden its close realtions with Iran. He said Iran also welcomed it. He added that the visit to Iran of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been announced by Kremlin but no date has been fixed yet.

The Iranian foreign minister also commented on the Serbs' crime in assassinating the Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic and termed it a great loss for Bosnian nation and government as well as world Islamic community. He stressed that Iran would continue its efforts within the framework of the tripartite meeting of Iranian, Greek and Bosnian foreign ministers to establish peace and stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina and thereby in the Balkans.

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He expressed regret that the big powers had no tendency to take effective measures to establish peace and stability in Bosnia and only guarded their own interests instead of trying to put an end to bloodshed in the Balkans. Velayati said that there was a feeling among some Muslim countries and public opinion that Muslims are the main victim of the crisis and Western countries disfavored establishment of an independent Islamic state in the republic.

National Council Assails U.S. Gulf Presence

LD2705190795 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] met this evening under the chairmanship of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Reports about the new formations adopted by U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf region were examined at the meeting. The SNSC described the way in which these forces have been deployed and concentrated in the region as an indication of the continuation of the United States' militaristic policies toward achieving its monopolistic aims and toward turning that country's illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf into an official and permanent fact.

The SNSC once again underlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's wish to maintain good relations with its southern neighbors; declared its opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf; and, noting the vital importance of the region's resources to the international community, as well as the fact that the illegitimate steps being taken by the United States to consolidate its monopolistic hegemony over the region run counter to international peace and stability, assigned the Foreign Ministry the task of conducting talks with the countries of the region in order to convey to them the threats posed by this new and illegal move by the United States.

The extensive attacks launched by the Serbs on civilian areas of Bosnia and the merciless killing of hundreds of innocent people in various towns in that country, especially Tuzla, were also examined at the meeting. The SNSC once again declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive support for the wronged people of Bosnia and the readiness of Iran's Muslim nation to help that country. Referring to the ineffectiveness of the measures taken by NATO and the United Nations to defend the regions declared as safe areas, it called for the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia in order to strengthen the legitimate defense of the Bosnian people.

Velayati: Unilateral Caspian Oil Deals 'Not Sound'

LD2605170995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has once again stressed that any oil agreement with foreign oil companies on exploiting Caspian Sea underground reserves must be accompanied by a political understanding of the sea's five littoral states.

The foreign minister said unilateral use of the Caspian Sea resources with no respect for the rights of the littoral states has no proper legal status or guarantee, and is not sound.

Radio Criticizes U.S. Caspian Sea Interference

LD2605143995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The director of the consortium charged with the exploitation of Azerbaijan's oil in his remarks made in Baku said: This consortium will probably export its essential and raw material products through Russia and Georgia. He has said: The final decision will be adopted within the next one or two months on exporting oil via Russia.

These comments are propounded under the circumstances when the Caspian Sea legal system as a key and sensitive issue on the way of the exploitation of the Caspian Sea oil bed reserves has not yet been determined. The Russian Government in a last minute decision has placed stress on its stance concerning the oil contract concluded between the Azerbaijan Republic and the consortium of the Western oil companies based on determining this sea's legal status and its bed deposits and its resources are shared among all the Caspian Sea littoral states.

It appears likely that Moscow's fresh stance is in keeping with what had already been described by that country's officials as the strategic significance of the Caspian Sea oil resources to Russia. This is at a time when Moscow's officials are concerned over the issue of the exploitation of the Caspian Sea oil being employed as a means for U.S. expansionism in the Caucasus' region. The Caspian Sea resources, in fact, belong to all the engulfing [as heard] states, which is indicative of Russia's willingness to arrange a sort of regional cooperation for the exploitation of oil resources in this sea.

Under such conditions it appears that the comments made by the president of the board of the executives of

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the consortium in charge of exploiting the Azerbaijani oil is a kind of declaration of readiness to make a political deal, and he has possibly sought to prompt Moscow to reconsider its stance through putting forward the possibility of Russia's benefiting from the operations related to the export of oil via that country's territory.

This is at a time when during the last few days the U.S. energy secretary during her visit to Azerbaijan, referring to the embargo against Iran imposed by America, hinted at possible ways for Iran to share in the trade and economic activities related to the Caspian Sea oil. It is not clear as yet to what extent such guidelines are concerned with providing a suitable atmosphere for the activity of the consortium in charge of the exploitation of Azerbaijani oil.

However, the striking point is that these sorts of introduction of options can come with the goal of opening up the ways to American presence in the region. It is to be noted that the U.S. energy secretary during her stay in Baku has expressed that the U.S. Administration demands the specification of the Caspian Sea legal system within the framework of the international laws. These comments are viewed by observers [that they] can be indicative of the U.S. attempt to draw the issue of the determination of the Caspian Sea legal regime to the international bodies, and presentation of an alternative regime aimed at preventing a legal regime to be formed which is based on the willingness of the Caspian Sea littoral states to consolidate the regional collaborations.

Joint Economic Commission With China Completes Work

Delegate Views 'Useful' Talks

NC3005072795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the seventh [as heard] session of the joint Iran-PRC commission for economic and commercial cooperation in Beijing, seven agreements were signed in the economic, research, banking, and commercial fields.

Iranian Vice President for Executive Affairs, Hamid Mirzadeh returned this morning from the PRC and spoke to our correspondent. He described the outcome of his talks in Beijing as useful, and said: Currently, the volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries has increased five-fold as compared to last year and has reached the level of $2 billion.

The vice president for executive affairs added: In some cases partial, and in some cases complete agreement was reached as regards the construction of power plants, cement factories, non-oil exports, and the establishment of permanent sales outlets and experts will follow up these matters.

Editorial Praises Economic Relations

NC2605190495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 May 95 p 2

[Editorial: "China and Iran — Natural Trade Partners"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Saturday [20 May], Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Company and China North Industries Corporation held a signing ceremony for the last contract to build a 49 kilometer electrified railway from the capital city to Karaj, west of Tehran.

There are two other Chinese companies that are going to help our megapolis, Tehran, to build, what is already billed, as the largest and longest subway in the Middle East.

The Chinese were awarded the 573-million-dollar contract after bids from companies from Germany, Italy, South Korea and Russia. The agreement is the biggest in dollar term after the China's Nuclear Power Company reached agreement in March to sell four 325- megawatt reactors to Iran.

Cooperation between Tehran and Beijing in economic fields have so far proven the most hassle-free cooperation between Iran and any other country. China has so far proven the most reliable trade partner, indeed a great partner whose political independence makes it go through the agreements without waiting for the blessing of other world powers such as the U.S.

It is an homage to China's great strength in every imaginable area — be it in political, military or economic areas or in such fields as the human resources — that the U.S. always hesitates to put pressure on the officials in Beijing.

While other economies in the world are facing a slump, the Chinese economy is booming. The prospect of a China much stronger than what it is today has haunted the U.S. strategists even after the end of the Cold War. Hence, every now and then we are going to see Washington blackmailing Beijing, as we saw in the recent row over copyright issues.

As we are approaching May 25th, the date set for the 8th Session of the Iran-China Joint Commission to be held in Beijing, we need to remind ourselves that Iran and China have a lot of similarities as both nations have emerged after popular revolutions and both have fought back against all kinds of foreign pressures since the victory of their revolutions.

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Furthermore, both Iran and China have had a glorious history of cultural as well as commercial exchanges since both were situated on the legendary route called the Silk Road. These two countries have proven to be natural trade partners and stand to gain aplenty from further expanding their trade and industrial cooperation, reviving the old connections between these two great and old civilizations.

Radio Hails 'Importance of Ties'

LD3005123795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 30 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC signed a letter of understanding at the end of the eighth session of their joint economic commission held in Beijing, increasing their economic and commercial ties. Increasing Iranian oil exports to China, the implementation of several big hydroelectric projects in Iran, financial and credit cooperation, and the expansion of scientific and research ties are foreseen in the letter of understanding, worth $2 billion.

In the opinion of political analysts, the signing of this letter of understanding, in addition to its economic importance, paves the way — by stressing the close ties between Tehran and Beijing — for the expansion of political cooperation and the adoption of more joint stances on international issues.

By virtue of its independent foreign policy and its ability to base ties on mutual respect, China has consistently held a special position in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign diplomacy. In addition, by adopting realistic positions on international developments and by understanding the realities of the Islamic Republic, China has always looked on our country with respect, and considers the strengthening of economic and political ties between the two countries as a factor contributing to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region and, by extension, to world peace.

The importance of the ties between Iran and China — more than lying in the volume of trade between the two countries — lies in the regional composition and the current international structure of power. The experience of China in carrying out economic reforms, and the ideological strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran in breaking the myth of the undefeatable power of the masters of the new world order are important factors, the joint exploitation of which will increase the two countries capabilities considerably.

Such a mutual relationship between these two important Asian countries can have lasting and notable consequences into the next century by serving as a model for the exchange of capacities and resources between all the countries of this continent, and for the ability of the people of the most populous continent of the world to affect international affairs.

Tehran Hosts Economic Commission With Oman

Official Proposes New Economic Group

LD2805120095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the fourth Iran-Oman joint economic commission in Tehran today, Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, Omani minister of trade and industries, proposed the formation of a new economic group by countries in the region of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean and called on Iran to participate in the formation of the new group. [passage omitted]

Ministers Agree on Copper Delivery

LD2805114695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth joint economic commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman was held in Tehran this morning. According to a report by our correspondent, during the meeting in which our country's minister of mines and metals and the Omani minister of trade and industry were present, the two sides reviewed the expansion of economic ties, increasing of trade exchanges, and joint industrial cooperation. The two sides also agreed on the delivery of copper concentrate from Iranian mines to Oman.

Ministers Discuss Oil, Gas Topics

LD2805111395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Omani trade and industry minister, who is in Iran at the head of a delegation, met and conferred with our country's oil minister today.

The expansion of the two countries' economic and technological cooperation in the oil and gas industries, and cooperation in joint projects to develop and exploit off shore oilfields, were among the most important topics discussed during the meeting.

According to a Central News Unit report, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i referred to the experience of Iranian experts in designing and implementing gas projects and

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announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in various projects in Oman which include a gas project in Muscat.

Velayati Addresses Gulf Security

LD2905155695 Tehran IRNA in English
1516 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and visiting Omani minister of commerce and industries, Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan shared views here on Monday [30 May] that consolidation of relations between the Persian Gulf states is guarantee for peace and stability in the region.

The two officials said Persian Gulf security can be maintained by cooperation among the littoral states themselves.

Velayati said cooperation and close relations between states in the sensitive Persian Gulf region will help secure stability and thwart the designs of outsiders to find a pretext to interfere in the region.

The outside powers are saboteurs of peace in the region and their presence is not in the interest of the states of the region.

Bin-Sultan said Omani officials believe that maintaining security in the region is the duty of the states of the region.

"I assure you, we are interested in expansion and consolidation of economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and multilateral cooperation with the states in the region."

Velayati said multilateral cooperation is one of the necessities of regional cooperation.

President Expresses 'Satisfaction'

LD2905220695 Tehran IRNA in English
2107 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [29 May] in a meeting with Omani minister of commerce and industries, Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, expressed his satisfaction over the expansion of trade ties between the two countries and underlined that Iran is the bridge connecting the two important and strategic regions of the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea.

He said Islamic Iran has taken practical steps to build bridges between the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea regions as is borne out by the completion of the 700-km Bandar-e 'Abbas-Bafq railway, the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway project and the desert highway through Semnan which reduces by 500 kms the distance between northern and southern Iran.

On the friendly ties between Iran and Oman, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that sharing of views between the two countries' officials shows the high level of confidence the two sides enjoy and this can serve as an example for other countries.

Referring to the illegal presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, he underlined that the present sensitive situation requires the regional states to open a new page of cooperation and exchange views so that foreigners do not get a chance to interfere and destroy the security of the region.

In the meeting, the Omani minister who is also the head of Iran-Oman joint economic commission, conveyed to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani the warm regards of Sultan Qabus and said the inauguration of the development and economic projects in Iran have been very encouraging for neighbouring countries.

Parties Sign Accord; Commission Ends

LD3005100195 Tehran IRNA in English
0931 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May, 30, IRNA — Iran and Oman here Monday [30 May] signed a letter of understanding for further economic cooperation.

The agreement was signed by the visiting Omani minister of commerce and industries, Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, and Iran's Minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Mahluji at the end of the 4th session of Iran-Oman joint economic commission.

According to the agreement the two countries will cooperate in different fields including trade, industries, banking, agriculture, oil, transportation and joint ventures.

Speaking at a ceremony in which the agreement was signed, Mahluji said the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on friendly relations with all neighboring countries.

Referring to the volume of trade between the two countries last year, the Omani minister announced that Oman's imports from Iran amounted to dlrs. 50,000 in 1989 while the figure rose to dlrs. 13 million in 1994.

Meanwhile, he added, Oman's exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran was dlrs. five million in 1988 which amounted to dlrs. 112 million last year.

The fifth session of the joint economic commission will be held in Muscat, he said.

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Majles Speaker Meets DPRK Foreign Minister

LD3005182395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri met North Korean Foreign Minister Mr. Kim Yong-nam today and told him that Iran respected the Korean nation because it had resisted well the pressures put on it by foreign powers and had remained committed to its aspirations and principles.

He criticized the U.S.'s spitefulness towards independent countries in the world, saying: The United States believes that the world has become unipolar following the disintegration of the former USSR and that the United States is the unrivalled rider in the ring. But the Americans have not been successful anywhere in the world—neither in Palestine nor in Somalia nor anywhere else. Wherever they went they created a quagmire into which they themselves fell. This is why they are now taking up such hasty, aggressive, and irrational measures.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to the important and effective role of the late leader of North Korea in advancing and developing that country. He hoped that the people and officials of Korea will follow the path he was following.

The North Korean foreign minister, on his part, expressed satisfaction at the growing trend of relations between the two countries. He added: The efforts made by the people and officials towards the achievement of self-sufficiency deserve praise and appreciation.

He described relations between Iran and Korea as deep-rooted and emphasized the importance of greater cooperation between the two countries in the Non-Aligned Movement.

Habibi Expresses Support for Bosnian President

NC2905112095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi held a telephone conversation with Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and discussed the issues of the Balkan region.

According to our special correspondent, during this telephone conversation the first vice president expressed his sympathies on the martyrdom of the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina and conveyed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Muslim people and government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also expressed the hope that the Serb aggression would be halted immediately and the reconstruction of cities and return of refugees would begin.

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to restore peace and stability in the region and for its continued assistance to the Bosnian Muslims. He expressed his appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the best friends of the Bosnian Government and people, which has remained alongside the Bosnian nation in all its tribulations.

According to this report, after visiting Mostar and participating in the prayer congregation in this city, Habibi attended a session of the representatives of European countries, which have peacekeeping forces in Mostar and the officials of this city. In his address, he called for closer cooperation between the Croats and the Muslims of Mostar.

Habibi and his accompanying delegation also visited the port city of Split in the Croatian republic yesterday evening.

Rafsanjani Answers Questions on Regional Issues

LD3005222695 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA — On Tuesday [30 May], Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an interview to a group of Russian reporters of the broadcast and print media in Russia giving answers to the various questions posed to him.

The following are the highlights of the interview.

Director of the Confederation of Russian Print Media Union: The question of priority concern to all of us, and of which we are somewhat anxious is the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia. What obstacles do you perceive in the relations between the two countries which should be surmounted in the interest of a further broadening of bilateral relations?

A. I do not see any specific obstacle in the way of broadening our mutual cooperation. The question is how much either side is interested in furthering those relations. Anything can be done without hitting an obstacle provided that the two countries wish to see it done.

The weekly REALITIES: What era of the past history of your country do you personally consider as having been valuable?

A. The answer to that question may well be long. Anyway Iran had a pre-Islamic past which was also

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dignified. Parts of the post-Islamic era of this country, too, is perfectly rich. There have also been certain eras which do not offer a very good picture for us to look at. But, all in all, the post-rennaissance governments in Iran did not do according to their commitments and were therefore left behind by the caravan of civlization.

During the Qajarid period and thereafter, the time was ripe for progress which was neglected. The Pahalvi era which was the end part of the Iranian history before the Islamic revolution triumph, was marked by its servility to foreign powers from the impacts of which we still suffer. But the contemporary period marked by the Islamic revolution has the best appeal to us.

TRUD reporter: Conoco, in response to the instructions of the U.S. Administration, has backed down on an agreement with Iran which would otherwise had allow it to prospect for oil on (Iran's) Siri island in the Persian Gulf with prospects of 100,000 barrels of oil per day. In addtion, the United States has launched out a policy for economic sanctions against Iran. What do you think are the impacts of that economic sanctions against Iran internationally, politically and economically?

A. We believe that decision by the United States will not have any substantial result. As for prospecting for oil on Siri Island, a number of companies including Iranian ones are negotiating with us, and being interested in the project have offered us attractive terms and conditions for consideration. As for our oil sale let me tell you that the oil now being produced by Iran is only as much as is demanded by international buyers. Should the Americans decline their portion will obviously be bought by another country. The mechanism is one of supply and demand. Additionally, however, Iran buys foreign-made products as much as it sells its oil. The same mechanism in the market is a working lever which we can exploit for ensuring perpetual sale of our oil. I think the only loser in the sanctions will be America.

St Petersburg: Iranian papers recently reported a scheduled visit to Tehran by President Boris Yeltsin in September. Who proposed the visit? And what topics are likely to be brought up (in the meetings between you and the Russian president during that visit)?

A. I have invited President Yeltsin to visit Tehran. The date for the visit, however, has not yet been agreed upon and remains to be decided. As for topics of discussion with President Yeltsin they are many which will have to be dealt with. Such as our mutual cooperation in economic, scientific, cultural, political and social areas in addition to the special topics of the Caspian Sea. There are also other topics such as the conditions in the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union such as the situation in Karabakh or Tajikistan.

As for world issues, we share the same viewpoints and outlooks on many of them. We must discuss things. Russia is a big power in Asia and we are concerned about the Asian topics and how Russia looks at the east is extremely important for us.

Another topic about which we are concerned is how to agree on mutual policies and cooperation in gas and oil considering the fact that both countries are major exporters of those items. Basically, I think, the people of the two countries are not aware of the true potentials of Iran and Russia. This visit will help enhance that knowledge. Certainly, there are other topics between Russia and Iran in the area of important regional issues as well as military topics. In addtion to the various issues between us are the problems of Balkans and Iraq.

The MOSCOW EVENING: Mr. president, in what ways are Iranians and Russians alike, and in what ways are they different?

A. It did not occur to me to think about the identities and differences between the two nations. All said, the two countries have an oriental nature and therefore have a lot common peculiarties. Another common characterstic between the two nations is that of the presence of a novel movement in Russia and Iran which I think is due their involvement in similar conditions and the common feelings between them. As for their distinctions, the emphasis in Iran is primarily on ideological, spiritual and religious values which is not the case in Russia. For 70 or 80 years Russians were indoctrinated with Marxist materialism which was not the case in Iran. And of those distincions a lot more can be said.

The MOSCOW EVENING: Mr president, what circumstances, do you think, would justify the propriety of resort to military power? What do you think is currently threatening Iran?

A. The guiding principle for us is that of restricting resort to the military for defensive purposes. When warranted for self-defense, the military should obviously be relied upon, but I do now know of any other circumstances that would sanction the military.

As for what threatens Iran, I do not tend to see at present any threat against the revolution and the political system internally or externally. However, there are nuisances, such as the recent measures of the United States, but they fall short of being properly labelled as threats. Fortunately, the status of the revolution is very strong on the domestic scene. The people solidly love their revolution. In my judgement due to the rich resources

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and good geographical conditions in Iran, I do not think the political system in Iran should now be facing a threat.

Deputy director of the Russian radio and television: Mr. president, do you think a solution could be found to the conflicts in the Middle East that will entail peace. Is it likely that the mutual relations between you and the United States will eventually be subject to change?

A. As for the Middle East, we are naturally interested to see the letting out of the sordid pus of conflict, and that understanding and peace rules the region. But in view of the method now being applied, I do not think it practicable. That is, I consider it unsuccessful. All things said, eventually, some solution would have to be sought for the four million dislodged Palestinians. The thorny issue of Palestine will never be resolved without having first resolved that problem. Even if accords are signed the situation will be destined to return to unrest again. The inherently aggressive nature of Israel is discordant with the peace such as is needed in the Middle East.

Even now you see when the topic of an alleged peace is being discussed Israel has opted for fresh seizures of more Arab and Palestinian lands. Even the United States which now professes to be acting as a mediator, and which should techically operate in that same capacity, recently at the United Nations Security Council vetoed in the interest and to the benefit of Israel the reoslution of 14 other embers. What kind of mediation is that? What kind of peace is that? There cannot possbly be any peace without justice. And there cannot be any peace at the cost of the extermination of an entire nation from the world geographical map.

Even in your own neighborhood, you see the emerging of such problems as those in Chechnya, Abkhaz, Karabakh and elsewhere. That is evidence that fire supressed under ash can blaze even after 200 years. Even now, the Israelites are raising the claims of several thousand years ago.

As for the United States, I can only say that we have not yet seen any good intentions on the part of the U.S. Before the Islamic revolution the United States had absolute and undisputed rule in Iran and it now wishes for the same status in Iran. We have said that if the U.S. should demonstrate some degree of good intentions then the issue would be considered. And we said what we mean by good intentions: such as the releasing of several billion dollars of Iran's assets long since been frozen at the American banks.

IZVESTIYA: Mr. president, you said in an interview sometime ago that you yourself had been a victim of acts of terrorism and that you have the scar of bullet on your own body. Who attacked you and when was it?

A. That was roughly a year and some months after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, that is about 15 years ago. They were agents of the very same Monafeqin (hypocrites—the MKO) who are now based abroad. They came to visit me at my house on the pretext that they had a letter to deliver to me. They attacked me in my drawing room but abortively. They fired a bullet at me from behind which ripped through my back and went off my chest imairing my lung and liver. The grouplet is now in Iraq, and also have offices and centres in certain other countries such as the United States and France. In the same incident, another bullet zipped past my forehead scratching my face.

The press center and publications house: Mr. president, as far as we know, your own daughters are actively engaged in social functions. How would you foresee their future politically? Is it likely that one of your daughters will one day be the president here?

A. That is not what they aspire to. They are mainly involved with social and relief services. One of them helps the impoverished and needy persons such as those suffering from refractory diseases and abnormalities and heads an association of relief services for those victims. Another one is mainy involved with sports activities for Iranian women which is still not developed. They are also busy with their collegiate studies as well as their natural work at home and their routine businesses.

The MOSCOW EVENING: Mr president, religiously, what do you think ranks top in value for the people of Iran?

A. As an Islamist, I tend to view both material and spiritual elements as being inclusively and mutually valuable. Islam as a religion, does not consider happiness as being attainable exclusively within any signle sphere to the exclusion of other spheres. It considers happiness as being the sum of an aggregate of mundane as well as spiritual successes in all areas. Happiness is only relative, with any person enjoying elements of that total aggregate.

Director of the Confederation of the Press Union of Russia: If you permit me, I would like to pose a basically philosopical question to you. Mr president, how do you foresee the status of Iran within the world community in another 20 or 25 years? Do you think at that time the world peoples will be closer to one another? If yes, in what manner can stability be introduced and the fruits of peace be reaped?

A. By and large, we tend to see the direction of world events as changing for the better. The better knoweldge-

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able the world people become the smalier will tend to become the social ills. Relying on the Islamic faith and looking at the world from the angle offered us by the Holy Koran (the Almighty's last revelation to mankind), we view the future of man optimistically. I personally foresee a closer world solidarity in another 20 years than it was 20 years before. Obviously, that is not to say that we shall not have unwelcome developments. That is a summing up of the world in its totality.

St. Petersburg: Sadly enough, the present-day Muslim world is divided. What do you think is an obstacle to the unity of the Muslim world? Do you suggest a specific way for the unity of world Muslims?

A. Many elements are responsible for the division between the world Muslims. Of them three are the primary elements: the first element is religious seets of which there are several which disapprove of each other, and which exists also in Christianity. The second element is the attachment of certain Muslim governments to powers outside the world of Islam. For example, there was a time when some were with the west and some with the east, that is the Soviet Union.

Another element that exists today is differences between the very same Muslim countries. I mean, territorial differences or the like which work adversely. For example, the differences between Sudan and Egypt, or between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, or between us and the United Arab Emirates, and the likes of those differences.

However, once the nations have developed a higher level political acumen they shall be able to surmount those problems to an eventual unity. I consider the growth of political acumen of the peoples as being the prerequisite for surmounting those problems.

Director of the Confederation of the Union of Russian Press: Mr. president. allow me to offer you the expression of the appreciation of my colleagues and myself for having given this interiew to us and for having answered our questions.

At the end of the interview the director of the Confederation of the Union of Russian Press, gifted a watch to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani with an image on its dial of assassinted Russian journalist Dmitriy Drikov in whose memory every year the federation awards prizes to bold journalists the world over, which President Rafsanjani accepted.

The Iranian president also made a passing mention of his own experience as journalist before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, when he used to edit a magazine and an annual issue. Rafsanjani said that he is still attached to the pen and loves to write.

Pakistan

President: Indian Tactics 'Destabilize Peace'

BK2505135195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has warned that New Delhi's negative tactics in the held Kashmir can destabilize peace in the region and India will be solely responsible for it. Addressing the joint sitting of the Azad Jammu-Kashmir [AJK] Legislative Assembly and AJK Council in Muzaffarabad today, the president said though Pakistan believes in mutual coexistence, it would never tolerate atrocities on Kashmiris and desecration of holy places of Muslims. The president said India has lost the battle in occupied Kashmir because its forces have failed to bow [as heard] down the armless but brave freedom fighters. This is why India sometimes lays siege of holy shrines and sometimes talks of election. Kashmir, the president said, is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India. It is a question of right of self-determination and future of 12.5 million Kashmiris.

The president criticized the silence and pro-India policy of Western countries and said it is reflective of their double standards. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari appealed to the United Nations and international community, particularly the Islamic countries, to pressure India to stop atrocities on Kashmiri freedom fighters. It is also the responsibility of international community to make India act upon the UN resolutions and to provide opportunity to Kashmiris to decide their future according to their wishes, the president added.

Expressing grave concern over the saber rattling by Indian leaders, President Leghari said such statements have jeopardized the peace efforts in the entire region. Pakistan, he said, has adopted the policy of restraint but we want to make it clear that our efforts for peace should not be construed as our weakness. The president said Pakistan's valiant people and highly proficient Armed Forces are capable of defending every inch of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The president said India can never conquer Kashmir. Kashmiris have been struggling for their right of self-determination since Dogra dynasty and the struggle will continue till they succeed.

Referring to the sham elections India intends to hold in held Kashmir, President Leghari said these would be futile exercises. Elections were so massively rigged in the past that Kashmiri people resorted to peaceful agitation. India tried to silence Kashmiris' peaceful agitation, which forced the Kashmiris to take up arms.

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Leghari 'Concern' Over India's Prithvi Missile

BK3005150895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has expressed grave concern over India's Prithvi missile which is Pakistan-specific and endangers its vital cities and important economic centers. He was talking to office-bears and members of the Islamabad Foreign Correspondent's Association who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said Pakistan was being compelled to join the missile race which is expensive and nonproductive. He said Pakistan will do whatever is necessary to safeguard its security. He said Pakistan had asked the United States to persuade India not to go into serial production of Prithvi missiles. Pakistan, he said, must now take stock of the situation. President Leghari said Pakistan was ready to talk to India at any level, but the talks should be meaningful and not for cosmetic purposes merely to satisfy the international community. He warned that any future confrontation would be very dangerous for both India and Pakistan. It is, therefore, in the interest of over 1 billion people of this region to live in peace.

About the Kashmir issue, the president reiterated that there was no military solution to it and it should be resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution. [passage omitted]

Leghari Rejects Indian Charges at Kashmir Assembly

BK2505115895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has declared that peace in South Asia is not possible without solving Kashmir problem according to the UN resolutions. He was addressing the joint sitting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Legislative Assembly and Council in Muzaffarabad today. He referred to demolition of Babri Mosque, siege of Hazratbal shrine, and now the desecration of the Charar Sharif shrine and mosque by Indian forces in held Kashmir, which evoked anger and protest in the Muslim world. He warned that such negative Indian tactics have disturbed regional peace. Pakistan, he said, believes in peaceful coexistence but, at the same time, it cannot remain silent spectator over such Indian repression. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari pointed out that sometimes India (?lays) siege around shrine and at some other time it talks about elections. As a matter of fact, it has lost its war in Kashmir. He rejected India's allegations that Pakistan has been instigating Kashmiris. He categorically said that the Kashmiri people's struggle is totally indigenous. The Kashmiris are waging their battle of freedom or death and increasingly the world is lending its firm support to their struggle.

The president made it clear that Kashmir is not a border dispute but a question of right of self-determination of 12.5 million people. In this connection, silence by some Western powers shows their double moral standards. He said at least they should pay attention over the human rights violation cases. He said over the past four or five years, more than 50,000 armless Kashmiris have been martyred and thousands others are thrown in torture cells. The president rejected New Delhi's allegations that Pakistan has been instigating Kashmiris. He categorically said that their struggle is totally indigenous.

Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari strongly criticized the threats hurled by Indian leaders and declared that Pakistan Armed Forces are fully capable to defend every inch of their motherland and Azad Kashmir in case of any aggression. He contributed his one month's salary toward Pakistan's special fund for rehabilitation of Kashmiri refugees and the dependents of the martyrs. The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, and the leader of the opposition in the AJK Legislative Assembly, Mr. Mumtaz Rathore, also addressed the joint session.

'No Military Solution' for Kashmir

BK3005145895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said there is no military solution of the Kashmir problem which should be resolved in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. He was talking to the office-bearers and members of Islamabad Foreign Correspondent's Association who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [president house] in Islamabad today. The president said more than 625,000 Indian troops are committing gross human rights violations in the held valley for the last several years, but has failed to suppress the indigenous uprising of the Kashmiri people for their right of self- determination. He said the whole of the Kashmiri population have been alienated and Kashmiris would never participate in any farcical elections in the held valley. He said Pakistan was willing to have a meaningful and purposeful dialogue with India to find a peaceful solution of the core problem of Kashmir between the two countries. The president also briefed the foreign correspondents about the overall economic and political situation in the country. He answered several questions on the Karachi situation, investment opportu-

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nities in Pakistan, and other national and international issues.

Observers View 'Three-Pronged' Security

BK3005125495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 30 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Pakistan security concerns can be addressed only by adopting a three pronged approach to solve the existing problems like the core issue of Kashmir and nuclear-proliferation in South Asia.

Diplomatic observers watchful of the various moves by the great powers endeavouring to avoid confrontation between a two-nuclear capable states, India and Pakistan said here. [paragraph as published]

Anything short of "solution of Kashmir dispute, regional approach on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and conventional weapons disarmament" will not be acceptable to Pakistan, they said. Pakistan's threat perceptions will remain unaddressed without pursuing a three-track approach. And this had already been recognised by the sole superpower United States.

United States Assistant Secretary of State on South Asia Mallot submitted a report to Congress in 1992 talking of a linkage among these issues while suggesting that these be discussed as such, said the observers.

Pakistan had floated the idea of a five nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia but India did not agree. Another initiative in shape of nine nations multilateral talks by US was taken in this regard but without cutting an ice on the issue. London talks between the United States and India were a move towards this end but were a total flop as India once again adopted a negative attitude.

India made it clear to US that there was no question of accepting a regional approach. India said it would prefer bilateral mode to solve the regional problems. On the other hand Pakistan had welcomed the multilateral talks on the pending issues in South Asia including Kashmir provided these were addressed in an integral way.

The diplomatic observers on the disarmament front after an indefinite extension of NPT, said Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and fissile material cut-off convention were the two main issues consuming the attention of the main actors in international politics in Geneva.

On the two issues, developed world and developing states have their differences. The five nuclear weapon-states stress that under the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks Treaty (START-I) and START-2, they have committed to destroy 20 thousand nuclear weapons hence the nuclear capable states should scrap their nuclear programmes and sign NPT.

The nuclear club countries have retained about three thousand nuclear weapons it their arsenals. They also would have a permission under CTBT if signed to conduct "safety and reliable testing". This will enable them keep their remaining three thousand nuclear weapons in operational form and can possibly help them improve the capability.

Nuclear capable states including Pakistan argue on the other hand that there should be a clear cut and time bound process for genuine disarmament for eventual elimination of the remaining three thousand nuclear weapons if the objective of total disarmament had to be achieved.

The diplomatic observers said their argument is simple. Nuclear weapons are bad, these are bad for every body. There can't be exceptions.

On fissile material cut off conventions too the difference of opinion had cropped up between the developed and developing countries. The emphasis of the developed world has been to stop the future production of fissile material. They have no answer to the existing stockpiles of the fissile material for instance in possession of India.

Pressure on the nuclear capable states might mount in days ahead to sign CTBT and fissile cut-off material convention but unless their concerns are addressed they were not likely to yield, said the diplomatic observers.

Minister Justifies Rangers Serving in Karachi

BK2705152195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, has said rangers and police were doing a great service by confronting terrorism bravely in Karachi. In a statement in Karachi, he said he was surprised that the leader of the opposition was opposed to the deployment of rangers in the prevailing situation in Karachi. Rangers and police were helping in the maintenance of normalcy at the cost of their own lives. The federal minister said the government of the day is with the agenda of peace and as soon as peace is achieved, there will remain no more requirement for deploying rangers in Karachi.

The Secretary, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] parliamentary group, Mr. Izhar Amrohi, has also criticized the statement by Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on the situation in Karachi. In a statement, he said the proposal by the leader of the opposition seems to be aiming at ruining the peace and harmony in Karachi and defending

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terrorists. He said rangers force is composed of patriotic soldiers who are committed to defend life and property of innocent people.

Editorial Urges End to Doubts on Nuclear Program

BK2705133395 Lahore JANG in Urdu 27 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan's Categorical Announcement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview, eminent Pakistani scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan has said that Pakistan's nuclear program has neither been capped nor is there even an idea of a plan to roll it back. From the very outset, it has been the Pakistan position to dedicate its nuclear program to the peaceful purposes of energy production. It does not intend to join the nuclear arms race, nor has it produced a nuclear bomb. However, it is not willing to relinquish its nuclear capability as every nation and individual has the right to acquire technological expertise in any area. Putting obstacles against such efforts is in fact putting obstacles against education and technology.

As far as the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is concerned, Pakistan supports it in principle. However, it is not willing to sign it unless India does. This is because India has carried out naked aggression against Pakistan on three occasions. Having exploded a nuclear device, India has now developed its missile program to such a level that even the United States is concerned.

The country's political parties in pursuance of their political considerations sometimes accuse the government of capping the country's nuclear program, saying that this was done during such and such a time and that the next phase will be to roll it back. In view of the categorical statement by Dr. Qadeer Khan, these allegations should now stop as they might create unfounded doubts and misgivings, thereby affecting the nation's unity and harmony. Also, it will not give other countries a good impression of Pakistan. Pakistan is our country and our existence depends on the existence of Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

President Urges 'Responsible Journalism'

BK2905125795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has stressed the need for responsible journalism in the face of the current crisis in the country. The president was speaking after inaugurating the National Information Center [NIC] in Fort [in Colombo] yesterday.

The president observed that her government has kept its election pledge by taking every possible measure to ensure media freedom. The NIC symbolizes these efforts. Mrs. Kuamratunga described responsibility as the other side of the coin of media freedom. However, some national newspapers were ignoring their responsibility. The mass media today enjoys unprecedented freedom. Private television and radio stations have the liberty to debate and discuss various controversial issues.

The government is doing everything in its part to remain transparent. The president said that this has been one of our administration's policies, not only during the cessation of hostilities but also after the truce collapsed. Some officials were even accused of providing too much information. President Kumaratunga, however, expressed regret that the lifting of constraint had not been reciprocated by certain sections of the media. Certain media institutions were striving to build on the concept of independent national media. This is in keeping with the government's policies. However, Mrs. Kumaratunga requested these institutions to act with responsibility. She warned that otherwise she would be forced to take severe measures in the best interest of the public.

Voice of America Project Approved Despite Protest

BK2605090395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 26 (AFP) — A Voice of America (VOA) project in Sri Lanka received the backing of a majority of legislators Friday [26 May] despite an anti-VOA protest campaign outside parliament here, witnesses said.

Protesters shouting slogans against the VOA project in northwest Iranawila, appealed to parliamentarians to support a motion moved by a government legislator, calling for the dismantling of the VOA facility, witnesses said.

But the resolution moved by Batty Weerakoon as a private members' motion was defeated with only four lawmakers in favour while 129 voted against it to ratify the government's agreement with the VOA.

The dozens of protesters including Roman Catholic priests and villagers from Iranawila dispersed peacefully after a noisy hour- long demonstration, witnesses said.

The Sri Lankan Government earlier this year approved the setting up of the VOA facility despite stiff opposition by local inhabitants, who believe the project could deprive fisherfolk of their livelihood and harm local culture.

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The area's predominantly Roman Catholic inhabitants have joined religious leaders and social organisations in conducting various protest campaigns calling for the project to be scrapped.

Since the People's Alliance (PA) government came to power at the August parliamentary elections, at least one civilian has died in police firing on demonstrators.

The government approved the controversial station with "modifications" that ensured greater environmental safeguards and reduced the land offered to the VOA from 1,000 acres (454 hectares) to 409 acres (185 hectares).

The government backed the anti-VOA campaign when it was in opposition, concerned over the "lack of transparency" in the agreement signed with the previous United National Party government.

Government Plans To Increase Defense Spending

BK2505121995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka is on the verge of implementing new revenue measures to finance the war against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who escalated their campaign last month, Deputy Finance Minister Professor G.L. Peiris said yesterday. Minister Peiris said a 3,000 million rupees slash in the defense expenditure announced in his budget proposal in February was unrealistic in view of the renewed hostilities in April 19. The government has projected defense spending at 24.72 billion rupees for 1995, down from an estimate of just over 27 billion rupees in 1994. The defense expenditure will certainly go up since the situation has changed drastically. The budgetary figures are certainly unrealistic, but we will not print money nor resort to borrowing, Minister Peiris told reporters. He said the government has a clear strategy to increase defense expenditure without causing inflationary pressures. We have some simple practical measures based on robust common sense, Professor Peiris said declining to give details.

Talks To Resume Only If Rebels Lay Down Arms

BK2905121195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government today said it would resume talks with the militants only if they laid down arms. The government would also insist that the leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, B. Prabhakaran, participates in the talks, Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said in an interview published in a Tamil paper.

He said so far the government had held talks with the LTTE without preconditions. The door for negotiations is still open but the LTTE should lay down arms, he said. He also said that the latest attempt of the LTTE to fan communal passion would not be allowed to succeed. The Kumaratunga government had initiated talks with the LTTE without insisting on any condition, departing from the stand taken by the previous United National Party governments of the slain President Ranasinghe Premadasa and then D.B. Wijetunge.

LTTE Said Restricting Power to Themselves

BK2505124695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO, declared that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will not permit any other political party to function democratically and independently in the north. The general secretary of TELO, M.K. Shivajilingam, says that the LTTE has demonstrated this by killing a member of its general council. He said there are two reasons for this gruesome action by the LTTE. It is their intention to restrict power to themselves and to show the world that they are the only group to represent the Tamil community. Mr. Shivajilingam made these observations in an interview with the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

In response to a question as to the opinion of the Jaffna people regarding the resumption of hostilities, he said that they were very disturbed by the present situation. They had high expectations that the ethnic problem could have been solved by peaceful means. The greatest need of the Jaffna people is peace. The LTTE felt that a political solution to the problem would distance them from the Jaffna people and they would lose their grip on power. The LTTE will never permit political parties or the ordinary Jaffna citizens to live within a democratic framework. The general secretary of TELO said that the LTTE was determined to ensure that the Jaffna people follow their order and were subservient to them.

Tamil Parties Condemn LTTE 'Barbaric' Killings

BK2805124195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tamil political parties have condemned as barbaric the recent killings of civilians by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. In a media statement, the Tamil United Liberation Front

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says it is deeply dismayed and distressed at the senseless killing of civilians. Ceylon Workers Congress leader and Minister of Livestock Development and Rural Industry S. Thondaman has expressed shock and said that his party was grieved to hearing of the killing of civilians. He said that such things should not be permitted to happen. Wanni District PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] Member of Parliament, S. Shanmuganathan, said that in the first instance, they condemn the killing of the civilians, be they are Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim.

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